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EUROPE  
& PACIFIC

WEEKEND  
EDITION



UFC hopefuls have limited opportunities during pandemic

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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



# Public health announcement

Analysts say US operations in South China Sea aimed at quelling doubts over post-virus readiness

AUDREY M.C. RAMPTON/U.S. Marine Corps

Marines with Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit load onto an MV-22B Osprey during a combat mission rehearsal aboard the amphibious assault ship USS America on April 21 in the South China Sea.

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. military for years stayed largely mum about its missions in the South China Sea, where the Navy and Air Force routinely conduct surveillance and freedom-of-navigation operations with an eye on China's ambitions there.

But in past weeks, the Defense Department has highlighted sea and air operations in the contested sea, which some military experts say is an effort to dispel doubts over the capabilities of the American military as it contends with the coronavirus pandemic.

The U.S. Navy has been particularly hard hit by the virus, with the carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt sidelined in Guam since March 26 as it grapples with the pandemic. More than 1,100 sailors on the ship have tested positive, with one death.

The Roosevelt contagion has left the regional allies and partners speculating about the U.S. military's readiness to respond to Indo-Pacific flashpoints, said Collin Koh, a naval expert at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

[SEE HEALTH ON PAGE 4](#)

## Unemployment claims surpass 33 million in US

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Nearly 3.2 million laid-off workers applied for unemployment benefits last week as the business shutdowns caused by the viral outbreak deepened the worst U.S. economic catastrophe in decades.

Roughly 33.5 million people have now filed for jobless aid in the seven weeks since the coronavirus began forcing millions of companies to close their doors and slash their workforces. That is the equivalent of one in five Americans who had been employed back in February, when the unemployment rate had reached a 50-year low of just 3.5%.

The Labor Department's report Thursday suggests that layoffs, while still breathtakingly high, are steadily declining after sharp spikes in late March and early April. Initial claims for unemployment aid have now fallen for five straight weeks, from a peak of nearly 6.9 million during the week that ended March 28.

Applications for jobless aid rose in just six states last week, including Maine, New Jersey and Oklahoma, and declined in the 44 others.

The report showed that 22.7 million people are now receiving unemployment aid — a rough measure of job losses since the shutdowns began.

[SEE CLAIMS ON PAGE 10](#)

## RELATED STORIES

U.S. Forces Korea maintains restrictions for now despite South Korea's initial moves to reopen

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V-E Day 75th anniversary commemorations moved from streets to screens because of virus

[Page 8](#)

Online: Get the latest news on the virus outbreak  
[stripes.com/coronavirus](#)

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel				
Germany	\$2.052	\$2.484	\$2.742	\$2.662	Azores	--	--	\$1.132
Change in price	+1.6 cents	-0.8 cents	+0.1 cents	-3.4 cents	Change in price	--	--	+1.4 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.057	\$3.259	\$3.358	Belgium	--	\$2.834	\$2.190
Change in price	--	+1.8 cents	+1.9 cents	-1.3 cents	Change in price	--	+7.2 cents	-67.8 cents
U.K.	--	\$2.394	\$2.652	\$2.572	Turkey	--	--	\$2.543
Change in price	--	-0.5 cents	+0.1 cents	-3.8 cents	Change in price	--	--	+0.1 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel				
Japan	--	\$2.529	--	\$2.449	South Korea	\$1.869	--	\$2.559
Change in price	--	No change	--	-4.0 cents	Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	No change
Okinawa	\$1.839	--	--	\$2.449	Guam	\$1.849**	\$2.289	\$2.539
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	--	-4.0 cents	Change in price	+1.0 cents	No change	No change

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of May 8-14

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)		0.9775
Euro costs (May 8)	\$1.05	Thailand (Baht)		32.41
Dollar buys (May 8)	40.9494	Turkey (Lira)		7.1478
British pound (May 8)	\$1.21	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)		
Japanese yen (May 8)	105.00			
South Korean won (May 8)	1.21			
Commercial rates				
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3777			
British pound	\$1.2291			
Canada (Dollar)	1.4063			
China (Yuan)	7.0891			
Denmark (Krone)	6.9213			
Egypt (Pound)	15.7489			
Euro	\$1.0779/0.9277			
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7511			
Hungary (Forint)	325.26			
Israel (Shekel)	3.5126			
Japan (Yen)	106.61			
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3094			
Norway (Krone)	10.2274			
Philippines (Peso)	50.57			
Poland (Zloty)	4.22			
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7564			
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4183			
South Korea (Won)	1,224.07			

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.04
3-month bill	0.12
30-year bond	1.41

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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## MILITARY

# Pentagon reports on civilian deaths overseas

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. military forces killed 132 civilians and injured 91 others during operations last year in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia, the Pentagon said.

The Defense Department issued its annual assessment Wednesday on civilian casualties as mandated by Congress. The report did not identify any civilian

casualties connected to U.S. airstrikes in Yemen or Libya.

The most deaths occurred in Afghanistan, where 108 civilians were killed, the Pentagon said.

U.S. military authorities in Afghanistan received 541 reports of civilian casualties for operations involving U.S. forces, which came from sources such as activists groups, the national government and media organizations. The military says it determined 57 reports of those were credible.

“For example, a report of civilian casualties would be assessed as not credible if U.S. military operations were not conducted at the reported time or place or the reported casualties related to the incident were assessed to be enemy combatants rather than civilians,” the Pentagon report said.

There also were 22 civilians killed during operations against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq and two civilians were killed in

an airstrike in Somalia, the report said.

Activist groups, however, have said the military has a long track record of undercounting civilian deaths. Amnesty International also has put out numerous reports over the past year that say airstrikes in places like Somalia and Syria are higher than previously reported.

For its part, U.S. Africa Command has begun issuing quarterly reports on civilian casualties,

in what it said is an effort to boost transparency.

In 2019, the Pentagon made 611 payments connected to property damage, civilian deaths and injury, the report said.

The report did not detail how those payments were doled out, but the Defense Department is authorized to spend up to \$3 million annually on such payments.

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## Space Force prepares to launch spaceplane with cadet's satellite

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
Stars and Stripes

The FalconSat-8 satellite developed by Air Force Academy cadets is slated to be launched into space aboard the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, a reusable unmanned spaceplane, on May 16 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

The small satellite is an educational platform that carries five experimental payloads. They will conduct multiple experiments on advanced propulsion technologies and payloads while in orbit as part of X-37B's sixth mission by the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, in partnership with the U.S. Space Force, according to a Space Force statement on Wednesday.

Alongside the FalconSat-8's experiments, NASA will study the impact of radiation and similar space effects on potential food sources, such as seeds, the statement said. And the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory will conduct an experiment to “transform solar power into radio frequency microwave energy which could then be transmitted to the ground.”

The X-37B, based on a NASA



**The X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, a reusable unmanned spaceplane, is slated to launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., May 16.**

design, was built by Boeing and serves as the Air Force's most advanced re-entry spacecraft. In October 2019, the unmanned vehicle returned from its fifth mission after 780 days in orbit, a little



U.S. Air Force photos

**Air Force Academy cadets and faculty members wait to receive their first contact from the cadet-designed FalconSAT-6 satellite in December 2018.**

more than two years.

The X-37B until then was a secret program; however, that flight, reported widely, stripped away the program's veil though its actual missions were kept confidential. The spaceplane has spent a total of seven years and 10 months in orbit, according to the Space Force statement.

The X-37B is the first vehicle

since NASA's space shuttle that allows further analysis of experiments brought back from space, according to an Air Force fact-sheet on the spacecraft.

“This sixth mission is a big step for the X-37B program,” Randy Walden, director and program executive officer for the Rapid Capabilities Office, said in the statement. “This will be the first

X-37B mission to use a service module to host experiments. The incorporation of a service module on this mission enables us to continue to expand the capabilities of the spacecraft and host more experiments than any of the previous missions.”

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## Navy's vice chief tapped to command forces in Europe, Africa

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Adm. Robert P. Burke has been nominated to serve as the next commander of the Naples, Italy-based U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa in a series of Navy leadership changes announced by the Pentagon.

A career submariner, Burke will replace Adm. James Foggo, who has led NAVFAC and NATO's Allied Joint Forces Command for nearly three years.

Neither a date for a change of command nor Foggo's next move were announced, but USNI News reported Foggo was expected to retire.

Burke's expected move to Naples comes at a time when senior military officials have repeatedly expressed concerns about more aggressive Russian activity, stretch-

ing from the Mediterranean Sea to the Arctic.

Having served since 2019 as vice chief of naval operations, Burke will arrive at his new headquarters with insight into whether leadership is on board with U.S. European Command's call for more warships to be homeported in Rota, Spain, to counter the growing Russian presence.

A native of Portage, Mich., Burke previously held operational assignments aboard attack and ballistic missile submarines and commanded the submarine USS Hampton in Norfolk, Va. He was also commodore of Submarine Development Squadron 12 in



Burke

Groton, Conn.

Tapped to replace Burke in Washington was Vice Adm. William K. Lescher, who was nominated for the rank of admiral. Lescher now serves as deputy chief of naval operations for integration of capabilities and resources in Washington.

Navy Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, who leads the Naples-based 6th Fleet, was nominated to serve as deputy chief of naval operations for war fighting development in Washington, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

She will be replaced by Navy Rear Adm. Eugene H. Black III, who was nominated for the rank of vice admiral. Black currently serves as director of the surface warfare division in Washington.

Rear Adm. Randy B. Crites was nominated for vice admiral and an assignment as deputy chief of naval operations for in-

tegration of capabilities and resources in Washington. He now serves as deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for budget and director of the fiscal management division in Washington.

Rear Adm. Yancy B. Lindsey was nominated for vice admiral and a new assignment as head of Navy Installations Command in Washington. Lindsey now serves as commander of Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia and as commander of Maritime Air Forces in Naples.

Rear Adm. Kenneth R. Whitesell was tapped for vice admiral and assignment as commander of Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, based in San Diego. He currently serves as deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

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## MILITARY

# German dining out is near, but not for troops

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. military personnel in Germany may have to bide their time before they can enjoy a night out again in the country, where restaurants and hotels will begin to cautiously reopen this month after weeks of coronavirus closures.

Each of Germany's 16 federal states is deciding when to reopen eating establishments and hotels, with some saying the hospitality businesses can welcome guests again starting next week, but must continue to follow strict social distancing rules.

But depending on which branch of service they're with and where they live, American military personnel and their families may have to wait up to three or four weeks before they can eat out again.

In Rheinland-Pfalz, home to about 50,000 U.S. personnel and their families, restaurants can

reopen by May 13, regardless of whether they offer indoor or outdoor seating, or both, according to local media outlet SWR. Hotels, youth hostels and campgrounds with their own sanitary facilities will follow on May 18.

But Army personnel and families in the southwestern state, which includes Kaiserslautern, are authorized to use only the outdoor seating area of restaurants when they reopen, according to an order issued Tuesday by Maj. Gen. Christopher O. Mohan of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, spokesman Master Sgt. Dan Bailey said.

The order is unlikely to change in the next few days, Bailey said, because the 21st TSC "will generally trail host nation decisions by a recommended 14 days before implementing any changes to restrictions for our personnel."

"This allows for one full [coronavirus] incubation period to pass before we implement similar changes to maintain a safe and secure environment for our guests and local communities."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said restrictions would be reintroduced if there are more than 50 new coronavirus infections per 100,000 people within seven days. Social distancing measures in the country have been extended until at least June.

A midnight to 5 a.m. curfew and 100-kilometer travel restriction included in Mohan's order will make hotel stays "impractical," but not necessarily put them off-limits, Bailey said. Exceptions will be made for official duty.

In Bavaria, Germany's second-most populous state and home to about 40,000 U.S. military personnel and their families, beer gardens and restaurants with outdoor terraces will be welcoming customers again by May 18. Restaurants that only have indoor dining will join them a week later, and hotels will reopen by the end of the month, officials announced this week.

Customers at restaurants will be required to wear face masks when entering and when going to the restrooms. Tables will have to

be at least 6.5 feet apart.

The state saw a high density of coronavirus infections, and U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria personnel are barred from going to restaurants and hotels. Although the order is expected to be modified, it was unclear when that might happen and what the changes would be, a garrison spokesman said.

Air Force personnel assigned to the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein in Rheinland-Pfalz are less restricted than their Army counterparts. They may patronize off-base restaurants and hotels as soon as they are legally allowed to reopen, spokeswoman Sandra Archer said Thursday.

Air Force personnel are also not under the same 100-kilometer travel restriction as their Army counterparts in Rheinland-Pfalz.

As for when on-base restaurants and hotels will return to full service, "the command is currently working" through the changes, Archer said.

"The intent is to stay aligned with local and state government

regulations," she said.

Restaurants in Rheinland-Pfalz will require reservations and patrons will be required to provide their names and addresses to allow "chains of infections" to be traced if another patron or staff member tests positive for the coronavirus, according to SWR.

A general order for U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden also places the indoor seating at restaurants off-limits to personnel, and bars them from going to shopping malls and other large retail centers, which are cautiously starting to reopen in Germany.

Baden-Wuerttemberg, home to the Stuttgart Army garrison and the U.S. European and Africa commands, has not announced when restaurants and hotels will be allowed to open again, but said it would be before the end of the month.

Stars and Stripes reporter Immanuel Johnson contributed to this report.  
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## Health: DOD publicized April ops from USS America in South China Sea

### FROM FRONT PAGE

"Chinese state media has been adding to this through its own propaganda and possibly disinformation campaign that focuses on arguing that the U.S. military is seriously undermined by the pandemic and therefore not in any position to come to the rescue of Beijing's rivals in the South China Sea, amongst other flashpoints," said Koh, one of a number of Asia experts interviewed by Stars and Stripes this week by phone and email. "In short, given the credibility at stake, it's understandable if the U.S. Navy is seeking to demonstrate its continued primacy in the area."

The Defense Department reportedly publicized air-ground operations by the Marine Corps 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from the amphibious assault ship USS America while in the South China Sea between April 17-24.

During the last week of April, Navy warships operated near the Spratly and Paracel islands, two South China Sea archipelagos that lie at the heart of China's contested claim of sovereignty over most of the area. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Taiwan all have overlapping claims with China in the sea.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Barry sailed near the Paracels on April 28, and the following day the guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill steamed near the Spratlys while conducting freedom-of-navigation operations.

On April 30, two Air Force B-1B bombers flew a sortie over the South China Sea in a demonstration of the service's new "dynamic force employment model" intended



BRENTON POYSER/U.S. Navy

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Adolfo Rodriguez stands watch as an MH-60S Sea Hawk takes off from the USS Gabrielle Giffords in the South China Sea last month. During the last week of April, Navy warships operated near two South China Sea archipelagos that lie at the heart of China's claim of sovereignty over most of the area.**

ed to keep would-be adversaries off balance with less predictable operations.

"It is possible that recent U.S. activity in the South China Sea has been driven by the pandemic, but my guess is that some of this was already planned and that other elements were added after

the outbreak on the USS Theodore Roosevelt," said Zach Cooper, a fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based think tank American Enterprise Institute and an expert on U.S. defense strategy in Asia.

"I haven't heard this directly, but my expectation is that the

Navy tried to increase their demonstrations of presence to avoid a weakened deterrence posture with the Roosevelt stuck in Guam."

Retired Navy Cmdr. Bryan McGrath, founder of the Maryland-based naval consultancy FerryBridge Group, said that while he had not perceived a shift in the tempo of Navy operations in the South China Sea over the past year, there nonetheless has been a change.

"It looks to me that the Navy's efforts to highlight these operations has, in fact, picked up a bit," he said. "There is little doubt, however, that the pace of U.S. Navy operations in China's near abroad has picked up in the Trump administration as part of its overall signaling campaign to China."

Amid criticism that President Donald Trump's handling of the epidemic has been slow and erratic, the White House and Republican allies have sought to shift blame for the pandemic on China, where the first cases were documented late last year.

Military analysts, however, are generally skeptical that the recent U.S. operations in the South China Sea, and the greater willingness to publicize them, are connected to that White House strategy.

"I get the impression the military is driving the [freedom-of-navigation operations] plan with the White House's approval, rather than the White House directing the approach," said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington, D.C., and a former strategic planner for the Navy.

Koh, from Singapore, said the

most recent U.S. operations in the South China Sea "conveniently piggy-back" onto the coronavirus issue.

"In short, the China-U.S. posturing and counter-posturing in the South China Sea reflects the evolving, broader Sino-U.S. geopolitical competition that has worsened, especially since 2017," Koh said.

Smaller nations in the Indo-Pacific have complained in past years about what they perceive as a lack of U.S. commitment in the region," said Alex Vuvung, a Southeast Asia expert at the Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies in Honolulu.

He speculated that the Pentagon and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command "may be realizing that they have to publicize what they're doing in order to show the world, particularly the smaller countries, that the U.S. is committed to security in the South China Sea."

Operations of the kind conducted on the USS America demonstrate U.S. effort to shift the balance of power in the sea away from China, which in recent years has built and militarized artificial islands in the South China Sea as a means of bolstering its claims of sovereignty and armed ability for enforcing those claims, he said.

"Regular" shows of force in international waters are a far more effective method of signaling pushback than [freedom-of-navigation operations], and the precedence of the USS America Expeditionary Strike Group in the South China Sea recently was exactly this kind of effective message," said Clark.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## More than 30,000 military families allowed to move

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 30,000 military families are expected to start the moving process between now and the end of June despite a Defense Department directive prohibiting such moves during the coronavirus pandemic, defense officials said Wednesday.

“So those are the families who have been approved or authorized to move, if conditions allow, will proceed with their [permanent change of station],” Rick Marsh, director of the Defense Personal Property Program for U.S. Transportation Command, said Wednesday during a Pentagon news conference on military moves during the pandemic.

The most recent stop-movement order issued April 20 by Defense Secretary Mark Esper ends June 30, but it allows priority personnel to receive a waiver to the policy through their chain of command so they can move to their next duty station during the halt.

TRANSCOM is tracking these families in their shipment system and they are in various stages of the process to have their household goods picked up sometime before June 30, Marsh said.

So far, more than 12,500 families have moved since early March when travel restrictions were first put in place, Marsh said. These moves were 30% of the volume that they typically have during that time, he said.



STEPHEN WADSWORTH/U.S. Transportation Command

Contracted personnel perform an accountability assessment and pack items belonging to a soldier before her moving to a different state in June.

In a normal year, about 400,000 service members, DOD civilians and their families are moved, with 40% of moves happening between May 15 and Aug. 31, according to the Pentagon.

Marsh said they expect moves to continue through the fall and winter due to the demand, and it was possible that more families could be added to their queue before June 30. Shipment and delivery of the household goods

are conditions based, including whether families feel it's not just safe at the new location, he said.

TRANSCOM also announced Wednesday that companies helping military members move must have their personnel follow more safety measures during the packing and shipment of household goods. Families will be emailed details about these safety protocols during the moving process, according to Marsh.

“Because the relocation process is intrusive with moving personnel working inside homes along DOD personnel and their families, DOD has directed that industry personnel adhere to Centers for Disease Control [and Prevention] health protection protocols,” Marsh said.

Movers must wear face coverings while in the home, clean frequently touched surfaces and sanitize their hands. There will

also be fewer movers working at the residence in order to ensure social distancing requirements, according to Marsh. Service members are also asked to limit family members in the home or restrict them to one room in the home during the packing and moving process, according to a TRANSCOM document on the new safety measures.

Companies also must certify their personnel have been screened for symptoms according to CDC guidelines and present documentation to the family when they arrive to the home, Marsh said. Families are also asked to comply with these safety measures and reschedule moves if they are sick or are in self quarantine.

Service members can question movers about whether they are following the safety measures and can deny them from entering their home. They can also stop the move entirely if they feel the movers are “compromising their safety,” according to a TRANSCOM statement. The service member would work with their local transportation office and chain of command to reschedule their move.

“Families are empowered to make decisions, they're not alone. A duty representative will contact every DOD member during every move — in person or virtually — to ensure protocols are being followed,” Marsh said.

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## After delay, Marines restart annual Australia rotation

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps is resuming a summer deployment of Marines and sailors to Darwin, Australia, that was postponed over the coronavirus pandemic.

The Marines delayed the rotation of 2,500 Marines on March 30 following an order from Defense Secretary Mark Esper, a week earlier barring nearly all official movement overseas for Defense Department personnel.

On Tuesday, however, a statement by U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific announced that the annual Marine Rotational Force-Darwin deployment is back on.

“The decision to resume the deployment comes as the government of Australia is granting an exemption to current travel restrictions to allow the 2020 MRF-D rotation to proceed,” it said.

The decision is based on Australia's record of managing impacts from the coronavirus and adherence by deployed U.S. Marines to a 14-day quarantine and other requirements when they arrive in country.

“The Marine Corps is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its forces and the Australian people, including local

indigenous communities,” the statement said.

The Darwin force, which trains in Australia each summer, has built up slowly since an initial contingent of 250 Marines hit the beach there in 2012. Last year the Marines rotational force had grown to 10 times that size, its target strength.

The Marines are working with the Australians to determine the composition of the force that will resume the rotation along with timing and training plans, according to Thursday's statement. Changes to this year's deployment do not impact plans for those in subsequent years.

Fifty-four Marines who arrived in Darwin in an advance party in March have already gone through quarantine and begun training with their Australian counterparts, according to officials.

Equipment and supplies for the Marines continued to arrive in Darwin last month despite the hold-up for personnel.

Marines and Australian soldiers practiced simulating shooting with each other's weapons April 29, according to a Marine Corps news release dated April 30.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## DOC memo: COVID-19 disqualifies recruits

By TARA COPP

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has issued new guidelines that would disqualify anyone who previously had COVID-19 from joining the military, according to a newly released memo.

The U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command, in a memo issued last week, said that “during the medical history interview or examination, a history of COVID-19, confirmed by either a laboratory test or clinician diagnosis, is permanently disqualifying.”

A defense official who spoke to McClatchy on the condition of not being identified, confirmed the authenticity of the memo, first reported by Military Times, and

**A defense official said the new policy would force an additional review where the recruit would need to get a waiver to move forward with the enlistment.**

said it is interim guidance.

The official said the new policy would not necessarily disqualify a potential recruit, but would force an additional review where the recruit would need to get a waiver to move forward with the enlistment.

The new policy would mean a past coronavirus exposure would be treated the same as other medical conditions, such as hearing loss, “that are considered ‘perma-

nently disqualifying,’ subject to a medical waiver,” the official said.

But the new policy comes as military recruiters are already facing challenges as COVID-19 has closed the high schools, malls and job fairs where they typically meet prospects.

Most of the military services told McClatchy they have seen shortfalls in recruiting since the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, every service told McClatchy

they do not anticipate being at full strength in terms of the number of forces they require by the end of the year.

More than 1.2 million Americans have tested positive for the virus and 72,617 have died as of Wednesday, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Nelson Lim, a senior social scientist at the Rand Corp. who has researched military personnel policy for more than two decades, said it was too early to determine the impact of the new policy, because there is still much that is unknown about the accuracy of antibody testing and immunity with COVID-19.

“We don’t have good estimates on the younger population” and

the virus impact, Lim said. “Testing is essentially limited to people with symptoms or high risk. So it is difficult to get a clear picture of the impact of this decision.”

It was unclear whether the interim Pentagon policy would eventually extend to currently serving forces who have been ill from the coronavirus while on duty. More than 5,000 military personnel have been infected with COVID-19, almost 1,900 of whom have recovered.

A request for comment to the Defense Department on the impact of the policy on recruiting, and whether it would extend to currently serving forces who re-enlist, was not immediately answered.

## Military keeps curbs as S. Korea starts to reopen

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Restaurants and bars are crowded, public transportation is buzzing and students are preparing to return to school starting next week as South Korea loosens anti-coronavirus restrictions after days of no local transmissions.

But U.S. Forces Korea says not yet for its community of 58,000 American troops, family members, contractors and other civilian employees who have been largely locked down on bases for more than two months because of the pandemic.

The South wrapped up an intensive social distancing campaign on Wednesday, announcing it would begin reestablishing a sense of normalcy with many facilities resuming routine operations.

USFK commander Gen. Robert Abrams said he will maintain restrictions under a designation known as Health Protection Condition Charlie on U.S. installations, while monitoring South Korea’s progress.

The host country “has done an amazing job” and we are going to let them take the lead as they relax some of their social distancing measures,” Abrams said in a statement posted on social media.

“We’ll watch and see how these new measures play out over the next week or so, and then if the current conditions are maintained, we’ll move forward with relaxing our preventative measures as well,” he said.

USFK also held discussions with its South Korean counterparts on the need for local troops who require access to U.S. installations to abide by the same rules, U.S. and South Korean officials said.

South Korea reported four new infections on Thursday for a total of 10,810 cases, with 256 deaths, since the virus began spreading



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

**A U.S. soldier uses hand sanitizer after receiving his take-out order from a kebab restaurant outside Camp Humphreys, South Korea, in March. As South Korea loosens anti-coronavirus restrictions, U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Robert Abrams says he will maintain restrictions a while longer.**

from China late last year. Three of those cases were imported from abroad.

The daily count has sharply declined since surpassing 500 in late February and early March amid an outbreak in the southeastern city of Daegu.

USFK, which has reported 26 cases, including two soldiers, credits the strict anti-virus measures, which includes a ban on eating at local restaurants and bars, for its low infection rate.

Barber shops and gyms reopened last month, but people must wear face masks inside facilities and long lines form at stores where people are required to stand at least six feet apart to prevent contamination.

Plexiglass divides diners at

the food courts. On-base buses have resumed service, but taxis remained banned on the largest overseas U.S. base, Camp Humphreys, causing hardships for soldiers below a certain rank who aren’t allowed to have cars.

Both allies stressed the need for a “new normal” even after restrictions are lifted, with health authorities encouraging people to continue washing their hands thoroughly and frequently and to maintain healthy distances from each other.

Abrams also has extended a public health emergency, which gives him expanded authority over civilians as well as troops, through May 23, although he could decide to end that earlier.

Some 28,500 U.S. service mem-

bers are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

“We’ve got a mission to accomplish, and we’ve got to keep our force healthy,” Abrams said.

Many in the community expressed growing impatience as life began to spring back outside the gates.

“Yeah the virus is pretty SQUASHED yet HERE WE ARE. Not moving forward at all,” one commenter said during an online forum.

South Korea also plans to reopen schools in phases, starting with high schools next week, after months of online classes.

The Department of Defense

**‘It makes the morale really low in the soldier community because our release from work and our decompression happens on the weekend.’**

Pvt. Josten Pervez

Education Activity, or DODEA, said most of its schools will remain closed and students will continue virtual learning for the rest of the academic year, although it said those in South Korea may reopen in coming weeks due to the improved conditions. It’s unclear when a decision will be made.

Pvt. Josten Pervez, 20, of Titusville, Fla., cooks for her fellow soldiers in the barracks to earn money and ease the boredom, but she hopes things will go back to normal soon.

“I don’t like all the restrictions,” she said in an interview while waiting in line to enter the Post Exchange on Camp Humphreys. “It makes the morale really low in the soldier community because our release from work and our decompression happens on the weekend.”

Pervez, who had a wagon to carry goods back to the barracks, said she’s only in South Korea for a year and wants to enjoy the culture. But she’s not angry about the extended restrictions.

“It is what it is. You just kind of take it with a grain of salt and hope that eventually it gets better,” she said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. gamel.kim@starsandstripes.com Twitter: @kimgamel

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Reagan returns to sea amid Navy's virus battle

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Ronald Reagan set sail for sea trials this week, its latest step toward deploying amid the coronavirus pandemic, officials confirmed Thursday.

The underway testing period typically lasts about a week and is one of the final phases before vessels leave for extended patrols. Details about whether the aircraft carrier would return to Yokosuka before deployment officially begins were unavailable, as the Navy does not discuss future personnel or ship movements by policy.

The hulking carrier was noticeably absent from its berth here Tuesday after leaving its homeport for the first time since November. The ship had been undergoing a regular maintenance period since returning from a six-month deployment in November.

A coronavirus outbreak at Yokosuka in March added an extra hurdle to getting underway. Navy officials have not said how many on the Reagan have tested positive for the virus, but the New York Times on April 22 reported 16 positive cases associated with the carrier.

"The Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic brought an invisible enemy to our shores and changed the way we operate as

a Navy," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday told sailors in a written message to the fleet on Thursday. "The fight against this virus is a tough one."

Despite the pandemic, Gilday said, the Navy has "a duty to ensure we are ready to respond."

"We cannot simply take a knee or keep everyone in port until this enemy is defeated. We are America's away team," Gilday said in his message. "The uncertainty caused by [the coronavirus] makes our mission of protecting America at sea more important than ever."

"That is why the U.S. Navy continues to operate forward every day," he added.

To prevent crews of the Reagan and its strike group from bringing the virus onto their ships, sailors since last month have been undergoing phased sequestrations of up to 21 days before embarking.

Not all Reagan strike group sailors have completed their sequestrations. Some remain under restricted movement orders at bases across Japan "to maximize readiness and protect the health of the force," Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Sean Brophy said in an email Thursday to Stars and Stripes. The task force is the 7th Fleet's battle arm.

"In accordance with U.S. Pacific Fleet guidance, [restriction of movement] is



RAPHAEL AVELAR/U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is seen from the air at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on April 25.

necessary to protect our sailors and their families; prevent the spread of the [coronavirus] to U.S. forces, allies, partners and the community; and ensure [the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group] warfighting readiness to accomplish assigned missions," he said.

In his message, Gilday acknowledged that "we are asking a lot of our sailors and families right now" with the pre-underway sequestrations and deployment extensions for ships already underway as the pandemic rages on.

"These sacrifices are necessary to maintain a healthy force around the world," he said. "I appreciate your commitment to selfless service."

The Reagan is now the only U.S. aircraft carrier out of port in the Western Pacific. The USS Theodore Roosevelt was sidelined in Guam on March 26 after sev-

eral of its crew members contracted the coronavirus.

Thousands of sailors disembarked the Roosevelt and isolated in hotel rooms for nearly a month as the carrier was sanitized and all crew members were tested for the virus.

The amphibious assault ship USS America, smaller than the Reagan but carrying F-35B Lightning II stealth strike fighters, is also at sea in the Western Pacific, according to its official Facebook page.

More than 1,150 Roosevelt sailors tested positive for the coronavirus by early May, according to the Navy. Crews who tested negative three times were allowed back on the carrier on April 29. It remains unclear when it will redeploy.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## 75th V-E Day commemorations go virtual

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

**STUTTGART, Germany** — Seventy-five years ago, throngs filled the streets of Paris, London, Moscow and New York to celebrate Victory in Europe Day. But on Friday, as the world marks the anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat, the ceremonial pomp will be muted.

Not only has the coronavirus upended commemoration plans slated to take place across Europe and the U.S., it also has rattled much of the post-World War II order now trying to contain the pandemic.

With gatherings canceled that would have included the dwindling number of surviving World War II veterans, the Pentagon will go virtual Friday to call attention to the sacrifices on the 75th anniversary of V-E Day.

At U.S. European Command's Patch Barracks headquarters in Stuttgart — a base named after Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch, who led the allied push into southern Germany — public events will also go virtual.

On Friday, Gen. Tod Wolters, EUCOM chief and NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, will participate in a virtual wreath laying in Belgium.

"On this milestone anniversary of V-E Day, we remember all who resisted behind enemy lines, those who tirelessly worked on farms and in factories to supply and equip the war effort, who fought on land, sea, and in the air," Wolters said in a statement. "We also reflect on the horrors of World War II, the Holocaust, the tremendous destruction, the millions of lives lost which are all solemn reminders of the importance of preserving peace."

### 'Just happy to be going home'

Among those who fought was Charles Shay, who served as an Army medic and took part in the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. He will mark the day from his home in Normandy, where he moved two years ago to be closer to comrades buried in the nearby American military cemetery.

"On May 8th, 1945, if I recall well, I was in Bremerhaven, Germany waiting for a boat to return home," Shay said in a phone interview. "I was just happy to be going home and happy to be away from all the confusion and fighting that was going on in Europe."

Shay, 95, was taken prisoner by German forces in March 1945 while on a reconnaissance mission about 50 miles west of Frankfurt. He was freed in mid-April when U.S. forces reached the POW camp. That was the end of the war for Shay, who would soon be on a boat bound for Boston, where his parents lived.

"My mother opens the door, and you can imagine her surprise when she saw me," Shay said. "Of course I told them about



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

World War II veteran Charles Shay at a D-Day 75th anniversary ceremony in Picauville, France, in June 2019.



U.S. Signal Corps

U.S. Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, chief of staff to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, signs on behalf of the Allied High Command the document of unconditional surrender of Germany.

some of my experience, but not everything."

For the last month, EUCOM has highlighted historical events with a daily victory countdown on social media that tracked the allied push through Germany.

EUCOM historian William Butler said that V-E Day is a time to reflect on the enormous sacrifice which went into victory in Europe, where hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops were killed or wounded and millions of Europeans died, including as part of the shocking atrocities of the Holocaust.

V-E Day was the culmination of years of fighting, but also set the stage for a U.S.-led postwar order that produced institutions like the United Nations and NATO, and brought Germany back into the fold of friendly nations.

A legacy of the WWII cam-

paigns was the proof that nations can join together in war or crisis, Butler said.

"That alliance, that coalition of nations working together toward defeating the enemy so to speak, should be key for us," he said. "We've had this enduring partnership in Europe. We've had NATO and other connections ... that have lasted and served us well."

Lessons also can be drawn from V-E day as the world contends with the coronavirus, Butler said.

Current generations can draw inspiration from the resiliency of the "Greatest Generation," which endured the Great Depression before fighting in the biggest war in history, Butler said.

"They knew what it was like to see normal life disrupted in a pretty significant way ... we



National Archives

Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signs the German surrender in Berlin on May 9, 1945.

haven't experienced that as a country as a whole in quite a while," he said.

### Fighting toward Berlin

Germany officially surrendered on May 7, 1945, which allies announced a day later. The outcome had become clear in the weeks leading up to victory. One week before the surrender, Adolf Hitler killed himself in a bunker as the Soviets closed on Berlin.

Among the U.S. military milestones that paved the way to victory, foremost was Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's decision to send thousands of allied troops onto the beaches of Normandy.

After that came the Battle of

the Bulge, Germany's last major offensive, fought in the forests of Belgium, Luxembourg and France. The allies were taken by surprise but regrouped over several weeks. The battle left nearly 20,000 U.S. troops dead.

After the Bulge, crossing the Rhine River in March 1945 capped a huge logistical achievement. Western allies were advancing on all fronts, with the Russians in the east closing fast.

It then became a question of how fast victory would come. But even after Germany's surrender, there were concerns, particularly in the south, where U.S. forces were in control.

Patch's advance into southern Germany positioned allies to quash the remaining Nazi elements, who Eisenhower feared could hold up in the Alps.

"We had met our Soviet allies up north, but there was still major concern by Gen. Eisenhower with respect to any lingering resistance that could possibly fester for months and years," Butler said.

U.S. bases in southern Germany, like EUCOM's headquarters, are partly a legacy of that focus on defeating a guerrilla campaign which failed to materialize.

Over time, U.S. forces based in places like Stuttgart evolved into a Cold War force focused on countering the Soviet Union, followed by other global threats.

"And here we still are," Butler said.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

### Nominee describes 'tarnished' Navy culture

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is in "troubled waters" following years of leadership failures that led to scandals, ship collisions, and the health crisis aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the nominee for the Navy's top civilian job told senators Thursday.

Kenneth Braithwaite, the U.S. ambassador to Norway, listed some of the recent failings in his opening statement to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee that he believes have caused a breakdown in trust in Navy leadership. His list included the Fat Leonard scandal, the 2017 collisions of the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain, as well as "judicial missteps" and the coronavirus outbreak on the Roosevelt.

He said his number one priority, if confirmed as the 77th Navy secretary, would be to "restore the appropriate culture" in the service. Culture is what gives an organization a sense of belonging and good order and discipline, he said.

"[Navy] culture exists. I won't say it's broken. I think it's been tarnished," Braithwaite said. "I think the events over the last several years have helped see that occur."

Braithwaite is a 1984 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and served in the Navy and then Navy Reserve for 27 years. President Donald Trump nominated him March 2 to be the next Navy secretary.

The Navy's recent secretaries have been embroiled in controversies in the last several months.

Richard Spencer, the last Navy secretary, was fired Nov. 24 by Defense Secretary Mark Esper for his handling of the personnel



Al Drago/AP

**Kenneth Braithwaite, left, nominated to be Secretary of the Navy, testifies during a Senate Armed Services nominations hearing on Thursday in Washington.**

decision for Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, who had been accused of committing war crimes. Gallagher was acquitted of murder in 2019 but found guilty of posing in a photo with the dead body of an Islamic State fighter. Spencer had gone around Esper to propose a different strategy to the White House on handling Gallagher and the Navy's review determining whether Gallagher would be able to retire with his SEAL trident pin.

Thomas Modly resigned as acting Navy secretary April 7 after disparaging comments made to the Roosevelt's crew about the aircraft carrier's former commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, were leaked online. The ship was in port in Guam due to a coronavirus outbreak that has since infected more than 1,000 sailors.

The Navy is investigating the coronavirus outbreak aboard the ship and the Navy's response to help. The investigation was recently expanded by acting Navy Secretary James McPherson because of what he said are "unanswered questions."

Braithwaite on Thursday was

supportive of the additional time being taken to investigate the matter.

"I believe that whenever you're confronted with a challenge like this, it's best to pause, consider all the facts, and then make the right decision," he said.

Referring to the actions and failings of his predecessors in handling personnel cases such as Gallagher and Crozier, Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., asked Braithwaite what he felt were his responsibilities in individual personnel decisions as the Navy secretary.

"Good order and discipline starts with the chain of command ... I believe that our commanders ... are vested with the responsibility to be accountable, as well as to lead those who serve under their leadership. And I believe they should be empowered to do such," Braithwaite said.

As part of the chain of command, he did not see himself intervening in individual personnel decisions, saying he wants that left up to the uniform leaders.

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## Yokota Air Base commander reports more cases among Navy personnel

By JOSEPH DITZLER  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An undisclosed number of support staff accompanying sequestered Navy sailors at the home of U.S. Forces Japan have tested positive for the coronavirus, the base commander said Thursday in a Facebook post.

A "small number of individuals who are part of the support team were confirmed positive for COVID-19," the disease caused by the coronavirus, wrote 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Otis Jones.

Last month, the Navy sent an undisclosed number of sailors to sequester at Yokota and other

U.S. bases in Japan before boarding USS Ronald Reagan carrier strike group vessels for an upcoming patrol. The Reagan left Yokosuka Naval Base for sea trials this week.

The support team tended to the needs of the sequestered sailors, who lived away from the base population during the quarantine period and were restricted to their quarters.

Once screened and cleared, those quarantined sailors were permitted to board their vessels. However, an undisclosed number of those sailors tested positive for the virus, Jones reported last week.

The support personnel were not sequestered while tending to

the ships' crews. Jones said he decided "out of an abundance of caution" to test the support team, as well.

"Our public health experts are working closely with the Navy to ensure both communities are being protected through recommended isolation and quarantine measures," he wrote Thursday afternoon.

His message provided no other details.

"Your safety remains my absolute highest priority," Jones wrote. "My team and I will continue to keep our community aware of any future concerns."

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## Exchange stores amend purchase limits of sanitizer

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Some base exchanges in Japan and South Korea are now allowing customers to buy up to three sanitizer products.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores at Yokota Air Base, Japan, and Osan Air Base, South Korea, which had been limiting customers to just one item each, advertised the new limits in Facebook posts Thursday.

Customers can now buy up to three items of sanitizing hand-gel at \$6.95 each, spray for \$6.95 or disinfectant wipes for \$1.45, according to in-store advertising.

AAFES and Navy Exchange Service Command officials didn't immediately respond Thursday to emailed questions about the limits.

Sanitizer was in short supply after customers rushed to stock up in early March as coronavirus cases surged. Shortages that month forced the exchange at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, in southwestern Japan, to stock Japanese hand sanitizer that sold for \$18.99 a bottle.

Exchange stores boosted supply to meet demand. The Navy Exchange, for example, acquired an additional 24,000 masks and more than 70,000 units of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes by mid-March.

On Thursday the Yokosuka



MATTHEW KELLER/Stars and Stripes

**Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores at Yokota Air Base, Japan, and Osan Air Base, South Korea, have new purchase limits for sanitizer products.**

Navy Exchange was still limiting customers to a single item for one brand of sanitizer and two items for another.

Navy civilian worker Leonard Davis, 51, and daughters Sia, 19, and Ania, 17, were buying sanitizer at the Yokota exchange Thursday. The family split their purchase of two bottles between them because they were unaware of the new three-item limit.

"They've been going through quite a lot of product, he said.

"I've been sanitizing at least every hour, but I don't want to make my hands too dry," he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Caitlin Doornbos contributed to this report.  
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## Trump valet has coronavirus; president again tests negative

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A member of the military serving as one of President Donald Trump's valets has tested positive for the coronavirus, the White House said Thursday.

It said Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have since tested negative for the virus and "remain in good health."

It marked the latest coronavirus scare for the president, and the first known instance where a person who has come in close proximity to the president has tested positive since several people present at his private Florida club were diagnosed with COVID-19 in early March. The person tested positive on Wednesday, the White House said.

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said in a statement, "We were recently notified by the White House Medical Unit that a member of the United States Military, who works on the White

House campus, has tested positive for Coronavirus."

He added, "The President and the Vice President have since tested negative for the virus and they remain in great health."

A person familiar with the matter said the member of the military who tested positive was one of the president's valets. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The White House instituted safety protocols nearly two months ago, including frequent temperature checks. Last month it began administering rapid COVID-19 tests to all those in close proximity to the president, with staffers being tested about once a week.

Several valets cater to the president and his guests at the White House, both in the West Wing and in the White House residence.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Fractures in many nations widen as lockdowns ease

Associated Press

LONDON — Regional and political fractures are emerging in many nations over how fast to lift the lid on the coronavirus lockdowns, as worries about economic devastation collide with fears of a second wave of deaths.

French mayors are resisting the government's call to reopen schools, while Italian governors want Rome to ease lockdown measures faster. As the British government looks to reopen the economy, Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon has warned that acting too fast could let the virus wreak havoc again.

"Any significant easing up of restrictions at this stage would be very, very risky indeed," Sturgeon said Thursday.

The economic damage around the globe mounted. In the United States, nearly 3.2 million laid-off workers applied for unemployment benefits last week, bringing the running total over the past seven weeks to 33.5 million. And the Bank of England warned that Britain's economy will shrink by 14% this year, its biggest annual rate of decline since 1706, when Europe was locked in the War of the Spanish Succession.

In Britain, where the official death toll stands at more than 30,000, second only to the U.S., Prime Minister Boris Johnson was expected to extend a more than six-week lockdown on Thursday, but hopes to ease some restrictions on economic and social activity starting next week.

Restrictions allowing people to leave home only for essential errands, shopping and exercise were imposed in Britain on March 23. On Sunday, Johnson



THOMAS WELLS, THE NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI DAILY JOURNAL/AP

**Tupelo High School senior Torreon Albert makes his way across the stage to an empty auditorium at Milam Elementary School as his family waits backstage for his graduation ceremony on Wednesday in Tupelo, Miss. The school district divided up the graduation ceremony to five different locations over three days with no more than four guests in attendance.**

plans to set out a road map for the next phase.

Johnson said that the government will act with "maximum caution" to prevent a second wave of infection.

In France, more than 300 mayors in the Paris region have urged President Emmanuel Macron to delay the reopening of schools, set for Monday. Many mayors around the country have already refused to reopen schools, and many parents will keep their children home even where they are functioning again.

The mayors called the timing "untenable and unrealistic," saying that they were put on a "forced march" to get schools ready without enough staff or

equipment. They complained that the government guidelines were too vague and slow in coming.

But governments are also under pressure to reopen faster and kick-start economies that have been plunged into hibernation.

Italian regional governors are pressing to open shops and restaurants, just days after the country began easing its two-month lockdown by allowing 4.5 million people to return to work in offices and factories.

Governors want to be allowed to present their own plans for reopening, tailored to the rate of infection and economic needs of their regions.

After an outcry from the nation's Roman Catholic bishops,

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte announced that public Masses will be allowed to resume May 18.

In Spain, support for the government is crumbling after seven weeks of a strict lockdown, with some regions and opposition parties demanding an end to the state of emergency declared on March 14. The government has argued that it is far too soon.

In Russia, where the number of new infections is growing fast, President Vladimir Putin delegated the enforcement of lockdowns and other restrictions to regional governments, leading to wide variations across the country.

Mikhail Vinogradov, head of the St. Petersburg Politics think

tank, told the Vedomosti newspaper that the Moscow government is sending mixed messages which governors find hard to decipher — wanting a victory over the virus, while also encouraging easing of the lockdown.

Fractures are also evident in the U.S., where about half of the 50 states are easing their shutdowns, to the alarm of public health officials.

Many states have not put in place the robust testing and contact tracing that experts believe is necessary to detect and contain new outbreaks. And many governors have pressed ahead with reopening before their states met one of the key benchmarks in the Trump administration's guidelines for reopening — a 14-day downward trajectory in new infections.

"If we relax these measures without having the proper public health safeguards in place, we can expect many more cases and, unfortunately, more deaths," said Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy with the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington.

China, where the virus emerged late last year, reported just two new cases Thursday, both from overseas, and said that the whole country is now at low risk of further infections. The country has reported no new deaths from COVID-19 in over three weeks.

China also fired back against claims by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that there is "enormous evidence" the coronavirus originated in a Chinese laboratory. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying accused Pompeo of "making up lies and covering up a lie by fabricating more lies."

## Claims: Furloughs turning into layoffs as US job market continues to slide

## FROM FRONT PAGE

That figure lags a week behind the figures for first-time unemployment applications. And not everyone who applies for jobless aid is approved. The number of laid-off workers receiving aid is now equal to 15.5% of the workforce that is eligible for unemployment benefits.

Those figures are a rough proxy for the job losses and for the unemployment rate that will be released Friday, which will likely be the worst since modern record-keeping began after World War II. The unemployment rate is forecast to reach 16%, the highest rate since the Great Depression, and economists estimate that 21 million jobs have been lost last month. If so, it would mean that nearly all the job growth in the 11 years since the Great Recession ended has vanished in a single month.

Even those stunning figures won't fully capture the magnitude of the damage the coronavirus has inflicted on the job market. Many people who are still employed have had their hours reduced. Others have suffered pay

cuts. Some who lost jobs in April and didn't look for a new one in light of their bleak prospects won't even be counted as unemployed. A broader measure — the proportion of adults with jobs — could hit a record low.

The official figures for jobless claims could also be undercounted by layoffs. Surveys by academic economists and think tanks have suggested that as many as 12 million workers who were laid off by mid-April did not file for unemployment benefits by then, either because they couldn't navigate their state's overwhelmed systems or they felt too discouraged to try.

As the economy slides further into what looks like a severe recession, economists are projecting that the gross domestic product — the broadest gauge of economic growth — is contracting in the current April-June quarter by a shocking 40% annual rate. As it does, more layoffs appear to be spreading beyond front-line industries like restaurants, hotels and retail stores.

GE Aviation, for example, has said that it is cutting up to 13,000

jobs. Uber will shed 3,700 positions. MGM Resorts International has announced that the furloughs of more than 60,000 employees could turn into layoffs.

But the job cuts have hammered workers at restaurants, hotels and retail firms particularly hard. According to the payroll processor ADP, about half the total jobs in the hotel and restaurant industry — 8.6 million — disappeared in April, based on data from its corporate clients. A category that includes retail and shipping shed 3.4 million workers.

As businesses across the country have shut down and laid off tens of millions, the economy has sunk into a near-paralysis. Even as some businesses are beginning to reopen in certain states, factories, hotels, restaurants, resorts, sporting venues, movie theaters and many small businesses are still largely shuttered. Home sales are falling. Consumer confidence and spending are sinking.

The difference between the 30 million-plus unemployment claims that have been filed in the past several weeks and the expected April job loss of just over

20 million reflects differences in how the figures are compiled.

The government calculates job losses by surveying businesses and households. It's a net figure which also counts the hiring that some companies, like Amazon and many grocery stores, have done. By contrast, the total jobless claims are a cumulative figure; they include applications for unemployment aid that began in mid-March.

In addition, the government conducts its surveys for the monthly jobs reports in the middle of each month. So layoffs from the final two weeks of April won't show up in Friday's jobs report. They will instead be included in the May jobs report to be released in early June.

After problems with state computer systems had slowed the distribution of federal benefits for many laid-off workers, all 50 states are now paying the \$600 extra weekly benefit that the federal government included in a relief package enacted in late March. That represents a significant help to millions of laid-off workers, many of whom still re-

main anxious and uncertain.

Jamie Stewart is renting out a spare bedroom in her home to try to make ends meet after losing her job at a southwest Florida resort. Having applied for unemployment benefits in late March, she finally received her first payment of \$1,200 this week. Stewart, a 37-year-old resident of Bonita Springs, works as a concierge in the offseason and as a shift manager and bartender in the resort's restaurants.

After her layoff, she deferred her car payment for two months and canceled non-necessities like Zoom, Pandora and Netflix. She recently signed up for food stamps, which cover about half of her monthly grocery bill.

"My mental health has deteriorated to a point that I don't recognize myself anymore," she said. "My eyes are swollen and blood-shot all the time now from regular moments of weakness that leave me completely inconsolable." "It looks like I have aged 10 years since the lockdown started."

## VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

# Mail reopens as rural counties defy state order

Associated Press

YUBA CITY, Calif. — Some businesses that reopened in two Northern California counties that defied the state's stay-at-home order are not following safety requirements, and the area's top health official said Wednesday that it's "imperative" they do to avoid a resurgence of coronavirus and return to stricter rules.

The local health order that took effect in Sutter and Yuba counties this week allowed diners in restaurants and opened far more retailers than the state approved. It's the most permissive yet in the nation's most populous state, but still requires employees and customers wear masks at indoor businesses.

On Wednesday, Sutter Yuba Mall became the first in California to reopen during the outbreak. Hundreds of shoppers — many not wearing masks — rolled through. A long line quickly formed at the nail salon, a business not allowed to open under Gov. Gavin Newsom's order.

A day earlier, Newsom said that allowing so many businesses to reopen was a mistake and urged leaders to "do the right thing."

## California

SAN DIEGO — Former California Rep. Duncan Hunter wants to push back the start of his prison term for stealing campaign funds until next year because of concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

Hunter's lawyers and prosecutors filed a joint motion in federal court Tuesday and were awaiting a ruling from a judge on their request to change the surrender date from May 29 to Jan. 4.

If granted, Hunter promised to not ask for any other changes to his term or that his home confinement be counted toward the 11-month prison stint.

Hunter was sentenced in March to 11 months in prison after pleading guilty to stealing campaign funds and spending the money on everything from outings with friends to his daughter's birthday party. The ex-Marine resigned from Congress in January after representing one of Southern California's last solidly Republican districts. A Democrat and Republican are headed to a November runoff for his seat.

## Louisiana

BATON ROUGE — Republican lawmakers trying to unravel Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards' statewide stay-at-home order began moving legislation

Wednesday that would keep the Democratic governor from enforcing restrictions enacted to combat the coronavirus.

Edwards' decision to extend his stay-at-home order through May 15 provoked strong criticism from Republicans who prefer a parish-by-parish approach to loosening restrictions that have shuttered businesses and driven up unemployment.

In a rebuke to Edwards, the House and Governmental Affairs Committee voted 9-7 to advance a proposal from House GOP leader Blake Miguez that would strip the governor of his ability to penalize businesses that don't comply with his order, for 15 days from passage. The vote was a near party-line decision.

That means closure requirements for bars, theaters, gyms, salons, tattoo parlors and more, bans on sit-down restaurants and limits on public gatherings of more than 10 people at churches and elsewhere couldn't be enforced by Edwards during that time.

## Michigan

LANSING — The Republican-led Michigan Legislature sued Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Wednesday, asking a judge to declare invalid and unenforceable her stay-at-home order and other measures issued to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

The lawsuit, filed in the state Court of Claims, said that a 1945 law which gives the governor broad emergency powers to order such restrictions governs local, not statewide, declarations like one that has been in place since March. A 1976 law gives Whitmer emergency authority only for a limited period that expired when the House and Senate did not extend her emergency and disaster declarations last week, according to the suit that alleges a "patent disregard for the law" and a "violation of the separation of powers."

The stay-at-home directive is in place through at least May 15 and generally requires people to shelter in place, except to do critical jobs, exercise outdoors and buy groceries or other items. An order closing places of public accommodation and limiting restaurants to pickup and delivery is in effect through May 28.

er-spokeswoman Tiffany Brown called the suit a "partisan game."

## Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesotans should fish close to home



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Beatrice Urquidez, left, gets her nails done by Thuy Le, owner of the Nail Tech salon in the Yuba Sutter Mall in Yuba City, Calif., on Wednesday.

to help curb the coronavirus pandemic when the walleye season opens this weekend, avoiding overnight stays and driving no further than they can go on one tank of gas, Department of Natural Resources officials said Wednesday.

A surge in fishing license sales indicated that many Minnesotans are getting antsy under the state's stay-at-home order and really want to hit the lakes. DNR fisheries chief Brad Parsons said that license sales are up 40% from this point last year, with roughly 362,000 sold so far.

On Wednesday, the Upper Midwest Law Center, a Minnesota-based public interest law firm, sued in federal court on behalf of Minnesota churches and small business owners wanting to strike down Gov. Tim Walz's stay-at-home emergency orders as unconstitutional.

The Minnesota Department of Health on Wednesday reported new one-day highs for the state in confirmed coronavirus cases at 728, and deaths at 30, which raised Minnesota's totals to 8,579 cases and 485 deaths. The new deaths included one in Nobles County, where an outbreak connected with the JBS pork processing plant in Worthington has resulted in 1,082 confirmed cases and one other death.

## Nevada

LAS VEGAS — Restaurants may offer disposable menus and dishes, day cares could try to keep children from playing or napping within six feet of each other and hotels could remove decorative

pillows from rooms and encase televisions and remotes in wipeable covers.

Those are among the guidelines that Las Vegas-area health officials are offering as the state prepares to start reopening more businesses which were shuttered because of the coronavirus.

Gov. Steve Sisolak last week said that restrictions will be eased gradually, with businesses deemed nonessential, such as retail stores, being allowed to allow shoppers inside. Sisolak has not yet announced an opening date, but said that it could be May 15 if the state sees 14 days of declining rates of new virus cases and deaths.

He has said that he's considering allowing the first phase of reopening restaurants to once again allow customers to dine in, as long as it can be done safely.

## Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania on Wednesday reported under 1,000 new cases of the coronavirus for the fourth straight day, the longest such streak since the daily reports of new cases first reached four figures in early April.

Health Secretary Rachel Levine called the four-day dip below 1,000 "good news."

Also Wednesday, Gov. Tom Wolf announced the creation of the Commonwealth Civilian Coronavirus Corps, an organization whose scale, funding and timeline remained unclear Wednesday.

The corps, Wolf said, will be designed to marshal Pennsylvanians into a force of workers to

help contain future outbreaks of the virus and inject life into the economy.

## Wisconsin

MADISON — Wisconsin's presidential primary election held last month in the face of the coronavirus pandemic drew concern from doctors, voters, poll workers and politicians who warned that having thousands of people leave their homes to cast ballots would further spread the highly contagious virus.

Now well beyond the 14-day incubation period for COVID-19, and with a Tuesday special congressional election in northern Wisconsin looming, it remains largely unknown just how many people contracted the virus at the polls on April 7.

A team of epidemiologists and public health experts who examined the potential impact of the election on the spread of COVID-19 in Milwaukee released a study Wednesday that drew no conclusions, in large part because of the lack of widespread testing and contact tracing.

Nearly 411,000 people showed up statewide to vote, some waiting in lines for hours in Milwaukee, many of them wearing masks and voicing anger at Republicans in the Legislature who refused to delay the election. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, who worked the polls in a mask, gloves and protective gown, was widely derided for reassuring voters that it was "incredibly safe to go out."

It will likely never be known just how safe, or not, it was to vote, public health leaders said.

## NATION

# Justices mull birth control coverage changes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seemed concerned Wednesday about the sweep of Trump administration rules that would allow more employers who cite a religious or moral objection to opt out of providing no-cost birth control to women as required by the Affordable Care Act.

The justices were hearing their third day of arguments conducted by telephone because of the coronavirus pandemic. The first of two cases before them Wednesday stemmed from the Obama-era health law, under which most employers must cover birth control as a preventive service, at no charge to women, in their insurance plans.

In 2017, the Trump administration announced it would broaden an exemption to

the contraceptive coverage requirement that previously applied to houses of worship, such as churches, synagogues and mosques. But the change was blocked by courts.

The Supreme Court's four liberal justices suggested they were troubled by the changes, which the government has estimated would cause about 70,000 women, and at most 126,000 women, to lose contraceptive coverage in one year.

Chief Justice John Roberts, a key vote on a court split between conservatives and liberals, suggested that the Trump administration's reliance on a federal religious freedom law to expand the exemption was "too broad."

And Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who joined the conversation from a Maryland

hospital where she was being treated for an infection caused by a gallstone, gave the government's top Supreme Court lawyer, Solicitor General Noel Francisco, what sounded like a lecture.

"You have just tossed entirely to the wind what Congress thought was essential, that is that women be provided these ... services with no hassle, no cost to them," said Ginsburg, who was released from the hospital late Wednesday.

The court's conservative justices seemed more willing to side with the administration, with Trump appointee Justice Brett Kavanaugh suggesting the administration's changes might be considered "within the bounds of reasonable."

Beyond exempting churches, synagogues and mosques from the contracep-

tive coverage requirement, the Obama administration also created a way by which religiously affiliated organizations including hospitals, universities and charities could opt out of paying for contraception, but women on their health plans would still get no-cost birth control. Some groups complained the opt-out process itself violated their religious beliefs.

That opt-out process was the subject of a previous Supreme Court case, but the court, with only eight justices at the time because of the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, didn't decide the issue. It instead sent both sides back to see if they could work out a compromise.

That didn't happen. "Is it really the case that there is no way to resolve those differences?" Roberts asked at one point.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

A man walks across Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest in Washington on Wednesday.

## Trump vetoes measure aiming to restrain his actions against Iran

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday vetoed a resolution that said he must get a nod from Congress before engaging in further military action against Iran. Trump called it "insulting" to the presidency.

The nonbinding congressional resolution was introduced first in the House after the U.S. launched an airstrike that killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani. There was concern in Congress that Tehran and Washington were perilously close to all-out conflict, and some lawmakers wanted to restrain further actions Trump might take against Iran.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war. Even so, Trump said the resolution implied that his own constitutional authority to use military force was limited to defending the United States and its forces against imminent attack.

"That is incorrect," Trump said in a statement. "We live in a hostile world of evolving threats and the Constitution recognizes that the president must be able to anticipate our adversaries' next moves and take swift and decisive action in response. That's what I did."

The resolution came in the wake of rising conflict between the U.S. and Iran.

Tensions rose after the Trump administration withdrew from the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers in 2018 and reimposed crippling sanctions against Iran. Last May, the U.S. sent thousands more troops, including long-range bombers and an aircraft carrier, to the Middle East in response to what it called a growing threat of Iranian attacks on U.S. interests in the region.

"The tensions spiked when U.S. forces killed Iran's most powerful general in January. Iran responded with a ballistic missile attack on a base in western Iraq where U.S. troops were present. No Americans were killed, but more than 100 suffered traumatic brain injuries from the blasts."

Trump did not consult with congressional leaders ahead of the attack on Soleimani, and there was concern in Congress that Tehran and Washington were perilously close to all-out conflict.

The White House sent Congress a notification explaining the rationale for killing Soleimani, but kept it classified. Some Democrats were unconvinced that the threat posed by Soleimani was imminent or that other alternatives to the killing were pursued in good faith. After Trump administration officials briefed lawmakers, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced a vote on the resolution, calling the killing of Soleimani "provocative and disproportionate."

## New campus sexual assault rules bolster rights of the accused

Associated Press

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Wednesday issued a new policy that will reshape the way schools and universities respond to complaints of sexual misconduct, bolstering the rights of the accused and narrowing the scope of cases colleges are required to investigate.

"We released a final rule that recognizes we can continue to combat sexual misconduct without abandoning our core values of fairness, presumption of innocence and due process," DeVos said in a call with reporters.

In announcing the new policy, which carries the weight of law, DeVos condemned the Obama administration for adopting a "failed approach" that turned campus disciplinary panels into "kangaroo courts."

DeVos' changes narrow the definition of sexual harassment and require colleges to investigate claims only if they're reported to certain officials. Schools can be held accountable for mishandling complaints only if they acted with "deliberate indifference." Students will be allowed to question one another through representatives during live hearings.

The regulation largely mirrors a proposal DeVos issued in November 2018 but tempers some measures that drew some of the harshest criticism.

The earlier proposal, for example, suggested that colleges would not be required to handle complaints arising beyond campus borders, but the final rule clarifies that their duties extend to fraternity and sorority houses, along with other scenarios in which the college exercises "substantial control" over the accused student and the "context" where the alleged misconduct occurred.

DeVos also clarified for the first time that dating violence, stalking and domestic violence also must

be addressed under Title IX, and she added new language ordering schools to provide special support for victims regardless of whether they file a formal complaint.

Title IX is the 1972 law barring discrimination based on sex in education. The law and DeVos' regulation apply to the nation's colleges and universities, along with elementary and secondary schools.

DeVos said the new rule "takes historic steps to strengthen Title IX protections for all students and to ensure all students can pursue an education free from sex discrimination."

The changes take effect Aug. 14. The Education Department finalized them after reviewing more than 120,000 public comments submitted in response to DeVos' proposal.

The final policy was quickly condemned by opponents who say it weakens protections for victims and will discourage many from reporting misconduct. The National Women's Law Center promised to take legal action.

"We refuse to go back to the days when rape and harassment in schools were ignored and swept under the rug," said Fatima Goss Graves, the group's president and CEO. "We won't let DeVos succeed in requiring schools to be complicit in harassment, turning Title IX from a law that protects all students into a law that protects abusers and harassers."

Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., chairman of the House education committee, said the policy "creates new barriers to justice" for victims.

"While the department's stated intent was to secure due process for those accused of sexual misconduct, the actual effect of its rule will be to erode protections for students, weaken accountability for schools and make it more difficult for survivors seeking redress," he said.



*Air Force spouses from the 347th Rescue Group board an HC-130J*

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## NATION

# Trump wall paint order will add at least \$500M to cost

By NICK MIROFF  
AND JOSH DAWSEY  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is again pushing to have his border wall painted black, a design change that is projected to add at least \$500 million in costs, according to government contracting estimates obtained by The Washington Post.

The president's determination to have the steel bollards coated in black has fluctuated during the past several years, and military commanders and border officials believed as recently as last fall that they had finally talked him out of it. They consider the black paint unnecessary, costly and a significant long-term main-



Several miles of 30-foot-tall bollards disappear into the foothills of the Jacumba Mountain range at the El Centro 1 project site, near Calexico, Calif., on Jan. 23.

tenance burden, and they left it out of the original U.S. Customs and Border Protection design specifications.

Trump has not let go of the idea, insisting that the dark color will enhance its forbidding appearance and leave the steel too hot

to touch during summer months. During a border wall meeting at the White House last month amid the coronavirus pandemic, the president told senior adviser Jared Kushner and aides to move forward with the paint job and to seek out cost estimates, according to four administration officials with knowledge of the meeting.

"POTUS has changed his mind and now wants the fence painted. We are modifying contracts to add," said one official involved in the construction effort who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of being fired.

Trump directed aides to seek input from North Dakota-based Fisher Sand and Gravel, a company the president favors. Fisher has a \$400 million contract to

build a section of new barrier in Arizona, an award that is under review by the Department of Defense inspector general.

The Post obtained a copy of painting estimates that federal contracting officials produced, and it shows costs ranging from \$500 million for two coats of acrylic paint to more than \$3 billion for a premium "powder coating" on the structure, the high end of the options the officials have identified.

The White House has not yet chosen a grade of paint, but Trump has insisted for years that the barrier should be black to discourage climbers. He has favored a shade known as "flat black" or "matte black" because of its heat-absorbent properties.

## US Census workers to restart Alaska door-to-door canvassing

Associated Press

BETHEL, Alaska — The U.S. Census Bureau plans to restart its efforts to reach residents without a listed physical address.

The agency was expected to renew its door-to-door canvassing Wednesday after hand delivery of census materials that began March 15 was postponed

by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, KYUK-AM reported.

Teams delivering the materials have been trained to observe social distancing and will follow federal health and safety guidelines, the Census Bureau said.

Temporary field staff will also use protective equipment provided by the government while

distributing census materials to households, the agency said.

The bureau expects its field operation to deliver materials to 110,000 households in Alaska as part of the national census conducted every 10 years.

Less than 27% of Alaska households had completed the form by the first week of April, compared

to the national response rate of nearly 43%.

Cook Inlet Housing Authority Chief Operating Officer Gabe Layman, who has assisted the nonprofit census education campaign Alaska Counts, previously said that many households in remote areas of Alaska were unaware they could file census in-

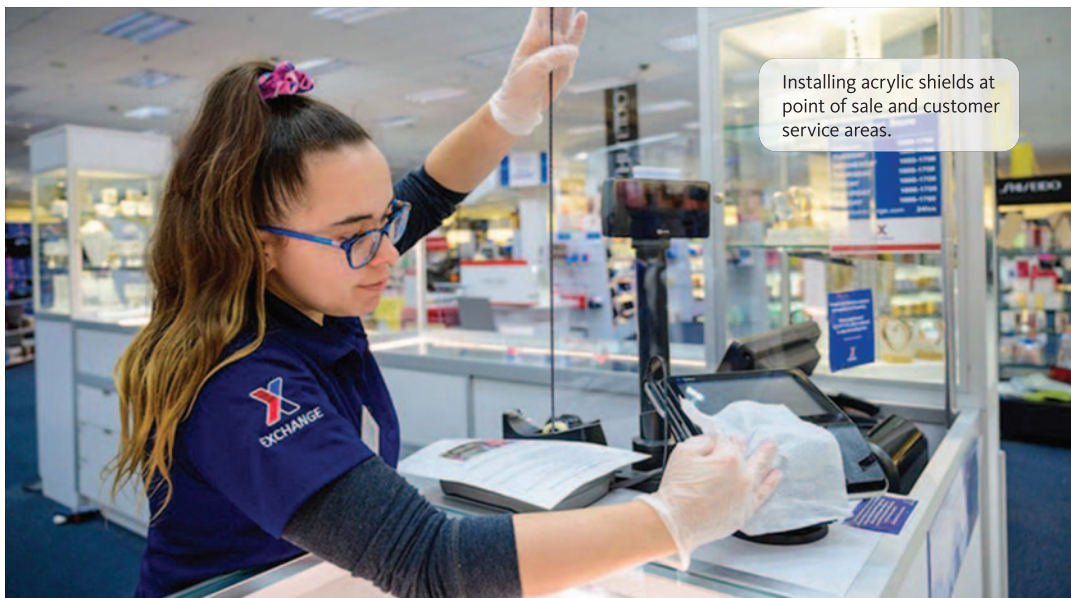
formation online rather than wait for a personal visit. Households can also submit information by phone, Layman said.

Alaska Counts has warned that the state will not receive a fair share of federal funds and programs allocated using figures compiled by the census if the new count is not accurate.

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## WORLD/NATION

# Officials: US to investigate claim of Venezuela raid

By JOSHUA GOODMAN  
Associated Press

MIAMI — A former Green Beret who has claimed responsibility for an ill-fated military incursion into Venezuela is under federal investigation for arms trafficking, according to current and former U.S. law enforcement officials.

The investigation into Jordan Goudreau is in its initial stages and it's unclear if it will result in charges, according to a U.S. law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. The probe stems from a frenzy of contradictory comments Goudreau has made since a small cadre of volunteer combatants he was advising on Sunday launched an impossible raid aimed at overthrowing Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Members of the U.S. Congress are also asking the State Department about its knowledge of Goudreau's plans and raised concerns that he possibly violated arms trafficking rules.

An AP investigation published prior to the failed raid places

Goudreau at the center of a plot hatched with a rebellious former Venezuelan army general, Cliver Alcalá, to secretly train dozens of Venezuelan military deserters in secret camps in Colombia to carry out a swift operation against Maduro. The U.S. has offered a \$15 million reward for information leading to Maduro's arrest or conviction. He was indicted by the Trump administration in March on narcoterrorist charges.

The men were being readied for combat at three rudimentary camps in Colombia with the help of Goudreau and his Florida-based company, Silvercorp USA, multiple Maduro opponents and aspiring freedom fighters told the AP. But the plot seemed doomed from the start because it lacked the support of the Trump administration and was infiltrated by Maduro's vast, Cuban-trained intelligence network, the AP found.

The law enforcement official said Goudreau's comments suggests his work on behalf of the volunteer army may have violated laws that require any U.S. company supplying weapons or military equipment, as well as



MIRAFLORES PALACE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE/AP

President Nicolas Maduro shows what Venezuelan authorities claim are identification documents of former U.S. special forces and U.S. citizens Airan Berry, right, and Luke Denman, left, during an online press conference in Caracas, Venezuela, on Wednesday.

military training and advice, to foreign persons to seek State Department approval.

Experts agree.

"Goudreau's public comments alone show he was exporting his lethal expertise into a foreign country," said Sean McPate, a former U.S. Army paratrooper who worked as a private military contractor and is the author of a book, "The New Rules of War," on the foreign policy implications of privatized warfare. "This is a serious violation."

Goudreau declined to comment Tuesday. The State Department said it is restricted under

law from confirming licensing activities.

The law enforcement official said Goudreau's possible involvement in weapons smuggling stems from the March 23 seizure by police in Colombia of a stockpile of weapons being transported in a truck. Alcalá claimed ownership of the cache shortly before surrendering to face U.S. narcotics charges in the same case for which Maduro was indicted.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday reiterated President Donald Trump's claims a day earlier that there was no direct U.S. government involvement in Goudreau's brazen operation.

"If we'd have been involved, it would have gone differently," he joked. "As for who bankrolled it, we're not prepared to share any more information about what we know took place. We'll unpack that at an appropriate time, we'll share that information if it makes good sense."

Goudreau, a three-time Bronze Star recipient, has insisted that his work providing only strategic advice to the combatants doesn't require special licensing. Still, he acknowledged sending into battle two special forces buddies associated with Silvercorp and who are now in Venezuelan custody.

## Afghanistan, Iran investigate deaths of 16 Afghan migrants

By SUSANNAH GEORGE  
The Washington Post

ISLAMABAD — Afghanistan and Iran have launched a joint investigation into allegations that dozens of Afghan migrants who crossed illegally into Iran were tortured by Iranian border guards and thrown into a river, where at least 16 drowned.

Afghanistan's foreign ministry announced the launch of the joint investigation

Wednesday after reports of the torture and killings emerged this week. The announcement follows criticism from Afghan and U.S. officials. The Afghan presidential spokesman called the reported killings "unforgivable crimes."

The allegations come as coronavirus lockdowns in Afghanistan have caused unemployment to spike and food prices to soar. As coronavirus spread in Iran earlier this year, more than 200,000 Afghans

returned to Afghanistan. And now as the Afghan economy has been crippled by the pandemic, some are trying to return to Iran in search of work.

Afghanistan's acting foreign minister, Mohammad Hanif Atmar, told lawmakers Wednesday that talks with Iranian officials "ended with tension," according to Afghan media reports. Atmar said that 16 bodies had been recovered from the site and that 18 to 20 people are missing.

Atmar launched a separate investigation by the Afghan government into the incident earlier this week, pledging in a tweet Tuesday, "we will pursue this unforgivable crime with all our country's diplomatic means until we achieve justice and righteousness." Atmar's post included images from Afghan social media of bodies wrapped in cloth loaded into the back of a vehicle.

## Former Iraqi spy chief is new premier

Associated Press



Mustafa al-Kadhimi

BAGHDAD — Iraq's former spy chief was sworn in as prime minister by lawmakers early Thursday after weeks of tense political negotiations as the country faces a severe economic crisis spurred by plummeting oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic.

The majority of 255 legislators attending the session approved the government plan and the majority of Cabinet ministers proposed by Mustafa al-Kadhimi, officially inaugurating him as

Iraq's sixth premier since 2003 and ending five months of a leadership void.

Al-Kadhimi, who gave up the intelligence post when he became the prime minister-designate, assumes the premiership as Iraq faces unprecedented crises amid falling oil revenues that will likely prompt unpopular austerity measures, a rising daily tally of coronavirus cases, and expected U.S.-Iraq talks.

By MATTHEW LEE  
AND ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials believe they're making progress in efforts to secure the release from Iran of a detained Navy veteran, but they are pushing back on Iranian suggestions that a swap is in the works for an imprisoned Iranian that American officials have been trying to deport since last year.

Ken Cucinelli, the acting deputy Homeland Security secretary, said Wednesday that the cases of American detainees Michael White in Iran and Sirous Asgari, the Iranian imprisoned in the

United States, have never been connected. He expressed frustration with recent comments from Iranian officials that there may be a link between the two and complained that Iran had been slow to accept Asgari's return.

"We've been trying to deport this guy for months," Cucinelli told The Associated Press. "There has never been any breath of a link between the two until they made it a news story a couple of days ago."

Cucinelli said DHS had started to try to deport Asgari on Dec. 12 after his acquittal on charges of trying to steal sensitive trade secrets. However, he said, Iran refused to recognize him as legit-

imately Iran and provide him with a validated passport until late February.

Once Asgari received the passport, DHS made several attempts to fly him back to Iran, purchasing tickets for flights on March 10, March 18, March 23, April 1 and May 1, according to Cucinelli. Each of those flights was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, he said.

Cucinelli, an immigration hardliner who has advocated for tougher deportation policies, said Iran has also been slow-walking the return of 10 other Iranian prisoners slated for deportation from the U.S.

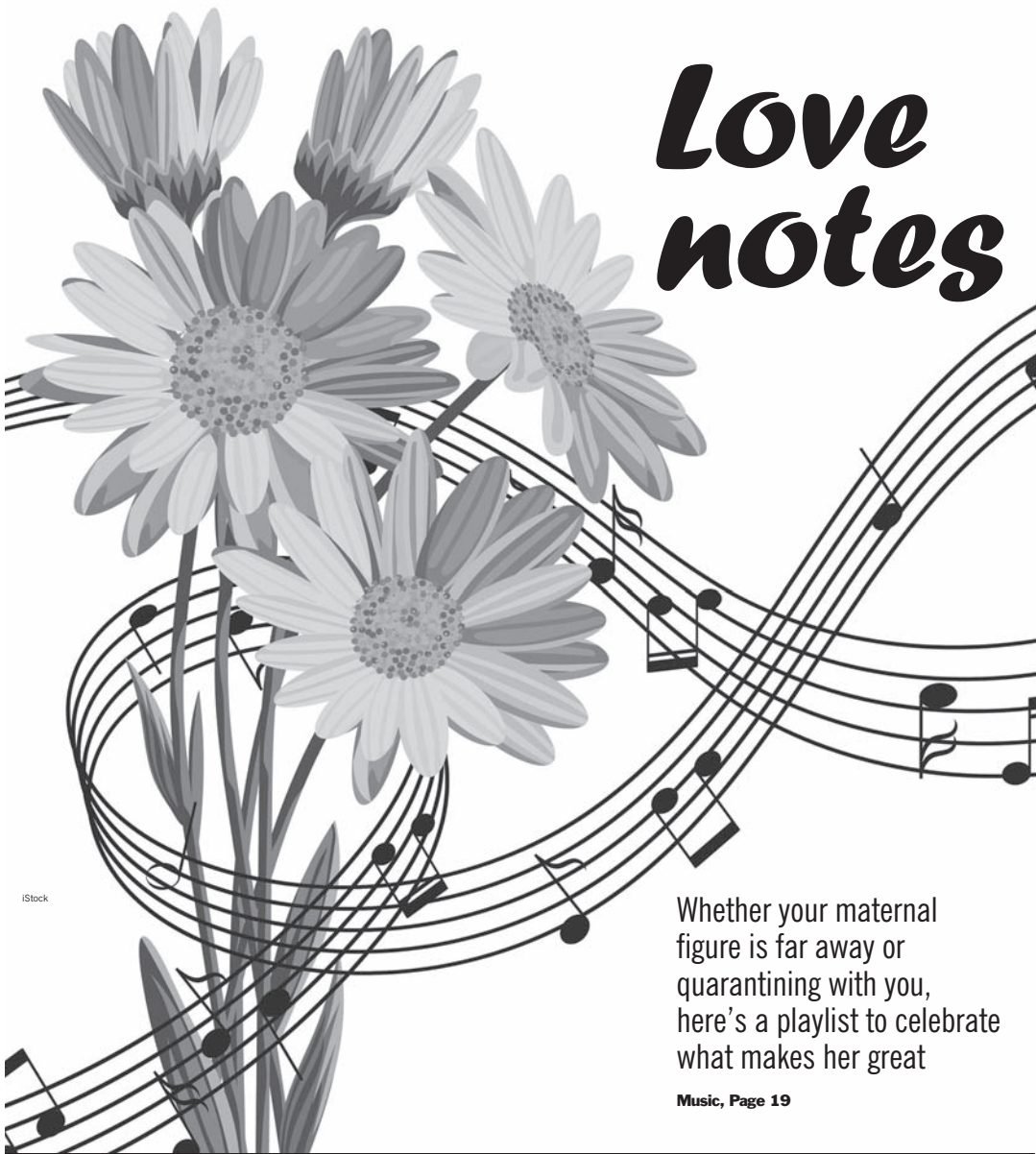
## US eyes deal to free American in Iran

# WEEKEND



Obscure but fun  
Switch titles  
Video games, Page 22

## Love notes



iStock

Whether your maternal figure is far away or quarantining with you, here's a playlist to celebrate what makes her great

Music, Page 19

## WEEKEND: GADGETS &amp; TECH



## Software, always-on webcams monitor teleworking employees

By DREW HARWELL  
The Washington Post

When the coronavirus shuttered the Kansas headquarters of the High Plains Journal, an agricultural trade paper for farmers and ranchers across the Midwest, digital marketing director James Luce decided to replicate the office experience entirely online.

Employees were told to create a digital avatar and spend their workday in a virtual office, replete with chat room cubicles and a gossip-ready "water cooler." They were also instructed to keep their home webcams and microphones on and at the ready, so a spontaneous face-to-face chat was always only a click away.

Luce believes the software, by the San Francisco tech startup Pragati, is the future of remote work. But not everyone is so smitten. One older employee who has struggled to adapt — bargaining clumsily into other people's video conversations or awkwardly lingering in someone's "room" after a meeting adjourned — recently changed her avatar's face to show it shedding a single tear.

"We have no shyness now at this point," Luce said. "It's weirdly brought us a little closer together."

In the weeks since social distancing lockdowns abruptly scattered the American workforce, businesses across the country have scrambled to find ways to keep their employees in line, packing their social calendars and tracking their productivity to ensure they're telling the truth about working from home.

Thousands of companies now use monitoring software to record employees' Web browsing and active work hours, dispatching the kinds of tools built for corporate offices into workers' phones, computers and homes. But they have also sought to watch over the workers themselves, mandating always-on webcam rules, scheduling three-day check-ins and inundating workers with not-so-optional company happy hours, game nights and lunchtime chats.

Company leaders say the systems are built to boost productivity and make the quiet isolation of remote work more chipper, connected and fun. But some workers said all of this new corporate surveillance has further blurred the lines between their work and personal lives, amping up their stress and exhaustion at a time when few feel they don't have the standing to push back.

Several companies allow managers to regularly capture images of workers' screens and list employees by who is actively working and their hours worked over the previous seven days.

One system, InterGuard, can be installed in a hidden way on workers' computers and creates a minute-by-minute timeline of every app and website they view, categorizing each as "productive" or "unproductive" and ranking workers by their "productivity score." The system alerts manag-

ers if workers do or say something suspicious: In a demo of the software shown to The Post, the words "job," "client" and "file" were all flagged, just in case employees were looking elsewhere for work.

InterGuard's system can also record all of the workers' emails, instant messages and keystrokes, and takes pictures of workers' screens as frequently as every five seconds, which managers can review as they please. "You could literally watch a movie of what that person did," said Brad Miller, chief executive of the system's Connecticut-based parent company, Awareness Technologies.

Miller said that hundreds of companies a week, three times their normal interest, are now asking about using the employee surveillance tools. He called it "financially irresponsible" for companies not to keep a close eye on their employees' daily work and said managers "feel completely entitled to know what their workers are doing" if they're allowed to log in from home.

Alison Green, whose popular "Ask a Manager" blog serves as a workplace advice column and sounding board, said she's heard from a rush of housebound workers stressed out about their bosses' increasing demands.

Many said they're already facing incredible anxiety over how their job responsibilities will change, whether their companies will have to lay off workers or cut wages, or even whether their industry will survive. But they are hesitant to speak up about the constant monitoring, for fear that any criticism could lead them to join the more than 26 million Americans who have filed for unemployment aid since mid-March.

"It's really demoralizing to feel like you've done good work for a company, maybe for years, and have a solid, reliable track record, and they're treating you as if you're going to spend your day drinking beer and watching YouTube," Green said. "People don't work well under that kind of scrutiny, even in the best of times."

A digital-marketing worker in Tennessee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity so as not to be punished by her boss, said the aggressive amount of check-ins — via emails, calls, text messages and Zoom video calls — "has left her team feeling 'incredibly stressed out.'"

"They're just checking in constantly. Every meeting is, 'What are you working on, exactly?'" she said. "I worked all weekend and woke up to an email this morning asking for everything I did last week."

This new wave of digitally mandated corporate camaraderie is quickly burning some workers out, said Green, who has heard from dozens of employees feeling socially fatigued and unable to say no, lest they be painted as an outcast. One respondent told her they were overwhelmed with Slack social-support channels, Zoom call "fun" challenges and chain emails about quarantine tips and recipes, writing, "I have more meetings now than I ever had in the office, and this is while also juggling a full workload."

## GADGET WATCH

## Everything you need for vlogging in one kit

By GREGG ELMAN  
Tribune News Service

With the GorillaPod Mobile Vlogging Kit, launched in Joby's new custom line, Mobile Accessories for Content Creation at Playlist Live, the tools will be a welcome addition for bloggers, vloggers or anyone wanting to create video content with clear audio and adjustable lighting.

Joby put it a nice way in a recent press release, saying the new kit will eliminate any barrier to creativity and share one common theme — the versatility to be situation-proof.

The lightweight (19 ounces) and versatile kit consists of the flagship Joby GorillaPod with the GorillaPod Mobile Rig, Beamo Mini LED and the Wavo Mobile microphone.

The flagship product is a tripod, ball and socket design with rubberized grips, designed to stabilize your camera on just about any surface or object. It sits perfectly on flat surfaces, or with its bendable legs can snuggle up to a pole and keep perfectly steady. I've used GorillaPods to hold my original iPod in place while flying and to take selfies in the Caribbean and put cameras in remote locations.

With the GorillaPod Mobile Rig tripod (3.1-by-4.7-by-12.9 inches), you'll have the same options to keep it flat, standing or wrap it just about anywhere, straight up or upside down — with its twistable and gripping legs.

Your smartphone is held in the GripTight mount, which can be used in portrait and landscape views. To change views, just loosen a screw, change the angle and hand tighten it shut.

The GripTight mount attaches to the tripod with the GorillaPod ball head.

Two GorillaPod arms, two cold shoe mounts and a GoPro mount are included with the GorillaPod Mobile Rig for adding or taking accessories on or off instantly.

For capturing crisp, clear audio, the kit includes the Wavo portable on-camera microphone, which attaches with a cold shoe mount. It's

built with Rycote Lyre technology to assist in shock-absorbing movements for clear sound while standing, walking or running. A deadend cover is included, to help on windy days and remove other unwanted background noise. Camera and smartphone connection cables and a pouch are included with the microphone.

The last piece of the kit is the Beamo Mini LED light, which is the piece of the puzzle many people don't use, but should. The on-the-go, compact and portable (1.5-by-2-by-2 inches) LED light will make you or your subjects look great. It has 1000 lumens with five steps of dimmable lighting and will last 40 minutes at full power or 100 minutes at 50 percent before a USB-C charge is needed.

The rugged Beamo 5100K light is waterproof up to 30 meters and also has a magnetic backing. With the myJOBY app (iOS and Android), lighting can be controlled remotely if the camera isn't within reach or if you want it adjusted while filming.

When you combine these pieces in the kit, it's a complete package, and you'll save money compared to buying each piece individually. With little to no setup, the kit stabilizes the image from the smartphone and adds much better lighting and audio compared to that produced by the smartphone. Use it to get on your next Zoom or FaceTime meeting, and you'll be asked why you look so good.

Joby has bigger kits, tripods, lights and accessories available on their site to work with just about any smartphone or DSLR.

Online: Joby.com; \$199.95



The GorillaPod Mobile Vlogging Kit is lightweight at 19 ounces.

JOBY/TNS

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

## SONGS ABOUT MOM

Heartfelt Mother's Day playlist features Elvis, Tupac and more

By JIM HARRINGTON  
The Mercury News

**M**other's Day will always make me think of the color purple.

No, not "The Color Purple" — the excellent Alice Walker book or the Steven Spielberg-directed film that followed. No uppercase letters needed for this reference. I'm simply talking about plain old purple itself, which was my mom's favorite color.

Thus, I'd usually buy her something purple each Mother's Day. It might be a purple sweater, a purple scarf, a dozen purple roses or something as simple as a purple Mother's Day card that said "I love you." What the gift was didn't seem to be as important to her as who it was coming from — and that I had put in enough thought and effort to find something in her favorite color.

It's been too long since I had the occasion to buy a special purple gift, given that my awesome mom, Marguerite Harrington, died in 2012. But I'm sending this Mother's Day playlist up to her. I tried to stick with the purple theme and include a Prince tune, but I couldn't find one that really worked for the occasion. So, instead, I decided to kick it off with my mom's all-time favorite artist.

Besides that personal touch, this playlist is just a collection of some of the all-time best tunes about moms. So, crank it up and have a happy Mother's Day.

**"Mama Liked the Roses,"** Elvis Presley (1970)

Presley was a proud mommy's boy (just like me), and he wears that on his sleeve on this gorgeous tune penned by Johnny Christopher, who also co-wrote the breathtaking "Always on My Mind." (Bonus points for the inclusion

of purple roses in the video.)

**"Your Mother Should Know,"** the Beatles (1967)

Paul McCartney further shows his vast versatility with this charming vaudeville/musical hall number that sounds wonderfully out of place with what was going on in music at the time.

**"The Best Day,"** Taylor Swift (2008)

Swift pays tribute to her mother with possibly the most touching lyrics of her career: "I don't know why all the trees change in the fall / But I know you're not scared of anything at all / Don't know if Snow White's house is near or far away / But I know I had the best day with you today."

**"Mama's He's Crazy,"** the Judds (2004)

The country music genre is rich with great songs about mama, including this memorable number that became the first No. 1 for the amazing mother-daughter act.

**"Dear Mama,"** Tupac Shakur (1995)

The legendary rapper delivers a remarkably tender, candid and, more than anything else, grateful look back at his mother.

**"Hand That Rocks the Cradle,"** Glen Campbell and Steve Wariner (1987)

This country classic suggests that "there ought to be a hall of fame for mamas, creation's most unique and precious pearls." And that sounds like a marvelous idea to me.

**"Mother,"** Pink Floyd (1979)

This selection is a bit unorthodox, but it's also quite tender, touching and features a guitar solo for the ages. Plus, I rarely pass up the chance to include Floyd in a playlist.

**"Coat of Many Colors,"** Dolly Parton (1971)

Parton reportedly has called this her favorite song she's ever written. And if that report is indeed true, then I can only add that Parton has excellent taste in music.

**"Mama Said,"** The Shirelles (1961)

Two minutes of pure pop/doo-wop/R&B perfection, dished up by one of the greatest "girl groups" of all time. **"Don't Forget to Remember Me,"** Carrie Underwood (2006)

A vivid portrait of that moment when a son or daughter leaves home.

**"Mama Tried,"** Merle Haggard (1968)

Ties with Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" as the best prison song ever. But this one offers a tenderness that the Cash classic can't touch. And that has everything to do with "Mama."

**"Mother,"** Kacey Musgraves (2018)

This might be the finest 1 minute, 18-second piano ballad tribute ever written about a parent.

**"One Heartbeat at a Time,"** Steven Curtis Chapman (2007)

An intensely satisfying and uplifting tribute to moms who "are changing the world one little heartbeat at a time."

**"Mama Said,"** Metallica (1996)

Mighty Metallica pushes pause on the metal long enough for James Hetfield to deliver a heavy-country-rock ballad written about his mother, who died of cancer when he was a teen.

**"I'll Always Love My Mama,"** the Intruders (1973)

Here's a true Mother's Day classic, courtesy of these Philly soul champs and the legendary songwriting team of Gamble and Huff.

**"Mama Said Knock You Out,"** LL Cool J (1991)

Here's a little trivia for you: It was actually LL Cool J's grandma, not his mama, who told the rapper to "knock you out."

**"When the Crazy Kicks In,"** Francesca Battistelli (2014)

A fun country-pop number about a busy mom "pushed and pulled by a thousand expectations" who knows exactly what she needs to do in order to "be ready when the crazy kicks in."

**"Mama, I'm Coming Home,"** Ozzy Osbourne (1991)

A pioneer in both the heavy metal and hard rock genres, Osbourne sure knows his way around a power ballad.

**"Take Your Mama,"** Scissor Sisters (2004)

You simply won't find a more fun song on this list than this glammedance-pop nugget.

**"The Mother,"** Brandy Carlile (2018)

Remarkably intimate and revealing, the lyrics feel like they come straight from the pages of a diary.

**"Hey Mama,"** Kanye West (2005)

One of the key early tracks that led so many to believe, rightfully so, that

Ye is nothing short of genius.

**"Mama Told Me Not to Come,"** Three Dog Night (1970)

Some might prefer the earlier Eric Burdon version or the later Tom Jones recording, but the definitive take belongs to Three Dog Night.

**"Mama Don't Forget to Pray for Me,"** Diamond Rio (1991)

The country group delivers an achingly gorgeous plea from a son who's strayed too far from home.

**"From Small Things (Big Things One Day Come),"** Bruce Springsteen (2003)

This fun rocker was recorded during "The River" sessions (1979), but wouldn't actually see the light of day until much later — kicking off the bonus disc to 2003's "The Essential Bruce Springsteen" set.

**"In My Daughter's Eyes,"** Martina McBride (2003)

The song is nothing short of breathtaking. Don't be surprised to find a tear or two in your eyes by the time this all-time great vocalist hits the chorus for the second time.

**"That's All Right,"** Elvis Presley (1954)

We'll close in the same fashion that we opened — with the kid from Tupelo, Miss. My mom would certainly approve.

iStock



Swift



West



Musgraves

# WEEKEND: MUSIC



## THE sound AND THE fury

Williams gets fiercely political, channels anger into new album

BY JENN PELLY  
Los Angeles Times

**I**t was only one week before our collective quarantine that Lucinda Williams' new house in Nashville had part of its roof blown off by a tornado. Trees and fences were uprooted; the power went out. "The tornado and then the plague," she tells me over the phone. "It's almost biblical."

In life as in song, Williams, 67, is an expert storyteller: It's not hard to imagine the mess of our current reality cast as a blues-rock rave-up on her 14th album, "Good Souls Better Angels." She has been releasing records since 1979 — spooling Southern-gothic narratives over the blend of rock and country now known as Americana — but she's never sounded so fiercely political, and the timing couldn't be more appropriate.

"They just keep f— up more and more," Williams says of the Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, a sentiment echoed in her new songs like "Bad News Blues" and "Man Without a Soul." "I don't think anybody has seen anything like this in their lifetime. ... And you've got to say something."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



All Eyes Media

**Lucinda Williams is a master lyricist, but the Americana icon is anything but subtle on her 14th album, "Good Souls Better Angels."**

### REVIEW

#### Lucinda Williams

Good Souls Better Angels  
(Highway 20/Thirty Tigers)

Lucinda Williams has come up with an album for our times — at least if you're as angry as she is.

"Good Souls Better Angels" is anything but subtle. Williams takes on "fools and thieves and clowns and hypocrites" — and that's just on one song, "Bad News Blues."

Oh, and she gets after the devil, too. And President Donald Trump, in "Man Without a Soul."

That song's hook isn't especially clever, and the politics aren't for everybody. The starring role, though, goes to Williams' spectacular band. Guitarist Stuart Mathis, bassist David Sutton and drummer Butch Norton jam out as Williams repeatedly shouts, "It's coming down." Comparisons are risky, but the playing evokes Neil Young of "Like a Hurricane" vintage.

It's fiery, righteous and emphatic, like the soundtrack to someone leaving a murder scene.

Williams is less blunt on "Big

Black Train," a song about depression, and "Wakin' Up," which touches on domestic violence. Even then, it's the band that elevates an ordinary hook — "I'm waking up from a bad dream" — to something more.

The mellower cuts are more constructive. On "When the Way Gets Dark," the band matches the unsettled mood of Williams' languid, encouraging vocals. On "Good Souls," a gorgeous prayer of a song, Williams recaptures the Velvet Underground-influenced magic she harnessed a few years ago with her cover of J.J. Cale's "Magnolia."

Superlatives can be tricky with new music. Sometimes you have to let it sink in a little, see how it holds up over time. You might be left to wonder later what everybody was so mad about.

The bet here, though, is that Williams and her band have captured the spirit of the moment. Not everyone will see things as she does, but no one will miss the point.

— Scott Stroud  
Associated Press

# WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

## FROM PAGE 20

"Good Souls Better Angels" is unsurpassing as Williams and her band storm through blown-out psychedelia and raw garage rock. "You're a man bound and sold. You bring nothing good to this world," Williams seethes on "Man Without a Soul," although she's quick to note that "it shouldn't limit this indictment to the president — "it could be about [Senate Majority Leader] Mitch McConnell too."

"I always wanted to be able to write really good topical songs like 'Masters of War' or 'A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall,'" she said, invoking two Bob Dylan protest classics. "And it's hard. I find it much easier to write an unrequited love song than to write about what's wrong with the system and how we're getting screwed."

But speaking truth to power with blistering candor adds to Williams' relevance. She's decades removed from her late '90s counterculture peak — her 1998 masterpiece "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road" was one of the most celebrated albums of its era — but Williams' deep songbook continues to reach new generations.

"There's still no one like her," said singer-songwriter Katie Crutchfield, 31, who makes music as Waxahatchee. While recording her recent album, "Saint Cloud," she had a photo of Williams hanging in the studio.

Williams' story is one of resilience in the face of a music industry that has never fully understood her. Her voice — an elixir of blues, country, folk and honey — aches with a kind of cracked incandescence, with empathy. But it's Williams' songwriting — and the sheer magnitude of feeling she can conjure in a single phrase of restlessness, yearning, loss or betrayal — on which her legacy stands.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Williams' first album of original material, the arresting folkways collection "Happy Woman Blues." For many, though, it was Williams' 1981 debut, *Small Change*, and first masterpiece, "Lucinda Williams," that marked her true arrival, as she traded traditional blues for ripping barroom rock. That record contained "Passionate Kisses," one of her signature songs, about wanting not only kisses but also "pens that won't run out of ink and cool quiet and time to think." "Passionate Kisses" won Williams her first Grammy. Her second, *Real Gone*, Carpenter covered it in 1992. It is also her most durable feminist anthem — "Give me what I deserve cause it's my right!" — in a catalog with many of them.

For Williams, a deep attunement with her own emotions has come from a lifetime of introspection. Born in Lake Charles, La., and her family lived in 12 towns in the American South, Mexico and Chile before she turned 18. Williams' father was the poet Miller Williams, whose advice to "never censor yourself" in writing guided her. Her mother, Lucille, was a frustrated pianist who struggled throughout Williams' family with severe mental illness, which found her in and out of therapy and hospitals. It was a highly analytical upbringing. "My mother was brilliant and always talked about Sigmund Freud and books like 'I'm OK — You're OK,'" Williams said, but still, she added, "I had to learn how to survive emotionally."

Her father also was a professor at the University of Arkansas — his mentor was none other than Flannery O'Connor — and at age 12, Williams heard Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited" when a student brought it over to the house. Dylan's combination of folk, rock and poetry changed her. "I decided I wanted to do that," Williams said. "I set the bar pretty high for myself."

The politics of "Good Souls Better Angels" are also, she says, "in my blood." Her father's side of the family were extremely active in the Southern States. Williams' paternal grandfather was a union organizer, civil rights activist, socialist democrat and Methodist minister who ultimately left the church.

Williams spent her 20s and early 30s living among Austin, Texas; Houston; New York; and Los Angeles, busking, waiting tables, working at a record store, all while honing her craft. But the music industry didn't take her. She did not have many obvious peers. (Later, heroes like Chrissie Hynde and Elvis Costello would become friends.) Williams remembers an Elektra label rep telling her that the problem with her songs — future highlights like "Changed the Locks" and "Pineola" — was that they "didn't have bridges."

"We just done with the meeting, and I went back to my little apartment and got out my Neil Young

and Bob Dylan albums, just to remind myself, 'OK, don't get disheartened.' I listened to two of my musical heroes and said to myself, 'Well, not all their songs have bridges either.'"

It wasn't until the English indie label Rough Trade came across her demo and released her 1988 self-titled record that she caught a break. "It took a European punk label to get me, which tells you a lot," she says.

Williams learned early to protect her vision from overbearing men. When she recorded "Happy Woman Blues" for Folkways in 1980, she chose to omit drums. The engineer went in without asking and overdrummed drums atop much of the record. "That was my first major experience in the studio working with ... you know, it was always guys," she says. "At the time, I thought: 'Really? You controlled me to that extent?'"

Though Williams' music never quite reached the era-defining appeal of "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road" again, that record and the stability that followed signaled a shift in her confidence. In the past decade, since the launch of her own Highway label, her records have grown more daring, and "Good Souls Better Angels" is her best in years. She recorded with her longtime backing trio, Buick 6, as well as engineer and co-producer Ray Kennedy, with whom she last worked during "Car Wheels."

Amid the new album's political righteousness, its highlight is "Big Black Train," a quavering reflection on tidal depressions and how they can sweep you away. "I don't wanna be no special rider," Williams croons. "I don't wanna get on board."

Williams has herself struggled with anxiety and depression. "Sometimes I wonder what it's like to not feel that way: What does complete happiness feel like?" she said. "I think it's hard to be in this world without experiencing some kind of depression."

"Big Black Train" is one of a number of new songs on which Williams shares a writing credit with her husband and manager, Tom Overby. Music history is filled with songs about trains. Williams questioned what might be left to say. "It basically says the opposite of what all the other train songs say, which is, 'I'm gonna get on that train,' where the train represents freedom," she says. "It takes that and turns it on its head." She says she cried while recording it.

Williams knows that some of her new songs might alienate certain listeners. But she felt a visceral need to express them. The searher "Wakin' Up" chronicles the domestic abuse she experienced during a yearlong relationship (before she met Overby, whom she married in 2009). The man was a recovering addict who relapsed after moving in with Williams. And he could be violent.

While Williams has sung of toxic relationships before, like on the foreboding "Car Wheels" ballad "Greenville," she calls "Wakin' Up" the "farthest out" she's gone. In harrowing detail, Williams recalls the night everything came to a head, when she escaped: "He pulled the kitchen chair out from under me / He pulled my hair / And then he pissed on me / Next thing I swear / He wants to kiss on me."

"All the stuff I say in that song really happened," she says. "You gotta get that ... out of your system, otherwise it makes you sick — it turns into a disease." After the experience, "I now totally understand the battered women's syndrome," she says. "You just kind of numb yourself."

Releasing an album during a global pandemic was never her plan, but Williams is adjusting. She has spent most of the four years since 2016's "The Ghosts of Highway 20" on the road, and now, in lieu of concerts — her soonest shows are scheduled for mid-July — she's filmed a number of live sets at home. She has also recently been working on a memoir with writer Sam Stephenson.

Williams lives with her mother and her house in Nashville from L.A. In February, they have been staying home, ordering delivery, catching up on Netflix. Like anyone, she's mostly stressed by the uncertainty of the moment. She's found it a bit difficult to focus. And she's trying to stay off Facebook.

Quarantine will, of course, present a huge obstacle for any artist with a record to release. But Williams' music has persevered through decades of systemic marginalization. Lockdown and time are not tempering her.

"I remember my dad saying that in the world of poetry, you don't really get respect as a writer until you're in your 60s at least. Age is irrelevant in that world," Williams said. "My art is going to continue."

## Waxahatchee

Saint Cloud (Merge)

Katie Crutchfield left Philadelphia, got sober, and made her best record.

Crutchfield takes her stage name from a creek that runs near where she and her twin sister, Allison, grew up in Birmingham, Ala. She had a productive half-decade living in West Philly, where the two of them relocated from Brooklyn, N.Y., in 2013.

After the 2017 breakup album "Out in the Storm," Crutchfield moved back to Alabama, then to Kansas City, where she now lives with song-writer Kevin Morby.

That geographical shift is crucial to the emotionally direct "Saint Cloud," which makes Crutchfield's more diffuse previous work seem guarded by comparison.

On the new album, she carries forth with a clear head, facing hard truths. Musically, she connects to a Southern



vernacular, using Lucinda Williams' "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road" as a touchstone.

Crutchfield and producer Brad Cook make her music come alive in songs that score direct hits rather than skirt the edges. On "Fire," she sings, "I'm wiser and slower and attuned." She's unburied and self-possessed throughout, without simplifying the struggle. "I'm at war with myself," she sings in "War." "It's got nothing to do with you."

— Dan DeLuca  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

## Maddie & Tae

The Way It Feels (Mercury Nashville)

Maddie Marlow and Taylor Dye, who record under the name Maddie & Tae, are more than collaborators. In the liner notes of their new album, each calls the other her "soul sister." As great as their friendship is, we are the real beneficiaries.

Their second full-length album, the 15-track "The Way It Feels," is funny in parts, touching in others and filled with various songwriting and harmonies. It is first-class country-pop and an absolute delight, from the broad, bear-hug celebration of America in "Everywhere I'm Goin'" to the intimate couple song "Trying on Kings."

Maddie & Tae made splash a few years ago with the convention-skewering duet "Girl In a



Country Song," but "The Way It Feels" shows off plenty of sides to this refreshing, exciting pair. It often resembles a greatest hits package — and in some ways it is. Several songs have previously been released as part of a pair of EPs in 2019. For anyone unfamiliar with the duo, this is a treat.

— Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press

## The Strokes

The New Abnormal (Columbia)

On their first album in seven years, The Strokes seem to have known they'd be returning at a crazy time. "We are trying hard to get your attention," singer Julian Casablancas sings on the first song, "The Adults Are Talking."

Nine songs later, the band has definitely gotten our attention.

"The New Abnormal" is a superb slice of indie rock, varied, exciting and compact, with elements of glam, straight-down-the-line rock and dreamy pop. Produced by Rick Rubin, the album comes 19 years after the band's seminal debut "Is This It" and is, in many ways, a fulfillment of that early potential. It's dynamic stuff.

"Brooklyn Bridge to Chorus" is upbeat and poppy in a way only The Strokes can do — riding on the swells of '80s New Wave (even asking of '80s bands, "where did they go?") but also commenting on the song structure. "Can we switch into the chorus right now?" And they do.



Speaking of the '80s, "Bad Decision" reimagines Billy Idol's "Dancing with Myself" — he even gets a credit — and warped slices of synth propel "Why Are Sundays So Depressing."

The last song — "Ode to the Mets" — is weighty, both ponderous and soaring, shapshifting through various styles — a band looking back uneasily. "Gone now are the old times / Forgotten, time to hold on the railing."

If we're all going down with the ship, let this be the soundtrack.

— Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press

# WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

## Indie games for Nintendo Switch to play while you're stuck at home

By TEDDY AMENABAR  
The Washington Post

In this period of social distancing, many of us have found more time to play video games. Maybe you recently purchased a Nintendo Switch for just this reason, or maybe you've already had your console for years. Regardless, there's more to the Switch than just Mario or Animal Crossing's anthropomorphic tanuki. There are countless games on the Nintendo Store created as passion projects by independent developers — indies for short.

Below is a list of some great indie titles to consider playing over the coming weeks.

### Dead Cells

In *Dead Cells*, a ruthless Castlevania-like game that's perfect for a dedicated game night, you're a lump of cells that finds refuge in a prisoner's corpse. Using this reanimated body, you set out to escape the dungeon as well as the bleak island you find yourself on.

If you die while trying to escape, you start over. There are no checkpoints or saving graces; you lose everything. *Dead Cells* encourages, almost requires, players to start over time and again until they begin to master the mechanics and breeze through levels.

You need to master the controls, remember how different enemies attack and counter effectively as you move through the game's areas. Once the game starts to click, the fun comes from pulling off deft maneuvers despite the mutated opponents grinding down your neck.

Every time you run through a level, the game is a bit different. The enemies are randomly populated across the map, so, even though you may get comfortable with the controls, you still have to stay on your toes. To aid you, *Dead Cells* includes a range of weapons to match your play style, including traps, melee and ranged weapons.

You can buy *Dead Cells* for \$24.99 on the Nintendo Store. The game will take around 13 hours to beat the main story, but there's an expansion pack, *The Bad Seed*.



D-Pad Studio

### Owlboy

A captivating adventure with a story that rivals any top-dollar title, *Owlboy* is a coming-of-age story that follows Otus, a young mule struggling to meet the expectations of adulthood.

The game takes Otus on a journey to protect his village from an army of sky pirates. At the start, Otus is a bumbling pupil, but he quickly becomes embroiled in a larger fight — one with an impressive story that builds out the lore of the game's world.

As the title suggests, Otus can fly. You're able to fly right out of the gate, which is an incredibly freeing mechanic to introduce so early on. You don't need to worry about falling to your death, like you would in a standard platform title. Instead, *Owlboy* raises the difficulty by applying limits on your mobility throughout the game. It's a refreshing way to make levels more complicated as you play.

Otus upgrades his abilities through his friends. He can carry anyone using his talons, co-opting their abilities to solve puzzles and defeat their enemies. One ally has a shotgun blast for short-range destruction, while another has a simple point-and-shoot machine gun.

The game took nearly a decade for D-Pad Studio to develop, and the final product is a beautiful love letter to pixel art. Every cave, terrain and sprite is meticulously detailed. Then there's the soundtrack tying the entire package together. The levels against the sky pirates have some of the best tracks, with a pulsing, spy-thriller intensity that sucks you into the action.

*Owlboy* will take around 10 hours to beat the main story. It's on sale at the Nintendo Store for \$14.99.



Sidebar Games

### Golf Story

A role-playing game that happens to be a great surrogate for watching the Masters, *Golf Story* isn't a golf simulator; it's an RPG that revolves around golf.

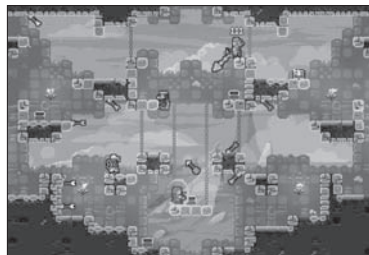
You play a golfer who's returning to the sport he grew to love as a kid. Besides that, there's not too much else to the story. The fun comes from playing golf and all the minigames that are sandwiched in between each round.

There are eight courses in the game; each one is its own small town with eccentric characters milling about for you to talk to, challenge and compete against. Winning earns you experience and cash to upgrade your clubs, just as defeating an enemy earns you loot in some fantasy RPGs.

The greens you play on can get a bit wacky — moles can steal your ball; some holes resemble putt-putt more than the PGA Tour. *Golf Story* is for the player who loved Mario Golf, not the purist.

It's not a perfect game; it can get repetitive at times. Still, there are ways to break up the monotony: Try some Frisbee golf on certain courses, for example. At a moment when traditional sports are off the air, the game is a great alternative.

*Golf Story* packs in up to 20 hours of game play, making it one of the longest games on the list. You can find it on the Nintendo Store for \$7.49, at the moment.



Matt Makes Games

### Towerfall

Stuck at home with family? This game is the Super Smash Bros. of indie titles.

*Towerfall* pits players against one another in close-quarters arena combat. It's the perfect game for avid gamers and amateurs to pick up and play together.

The title is from Matt Makes Games, the same developer behind the platform adventure *Celeste*, and the controls require just a few buttons, making it easy to learn for big groups.

Players fight using a simple bow and arrow in a death-match format. Similar to Pac-Man, the arenas often have entrances and exits that send you to the opposite side of the screen, making for quick ways to flank your opponent. There are dozens of unique arenas, for countless hours of "friendly" competition. Besides the main arena play, there's a cooperative story mode and a series of time trials to hone your skills.

It's important to stress: *Towerfall* is a multiplayer game. You should probably look elsewhere if you want an indie game with an engrossing single-player experience. Plus, a big downside for *Towerfall* is that it only supports local multiplayer, with no options for online play.

*Towerfall* is currently \$19.99 on the Nintendo Store. The main story will take four hours to beat, but the game really shines during the endless rounds of multiplayer.



Nintendo

### Good Job!

Miss the office? Press 1 to join this conference call. *Good Job!* is a game about the son of a chief executive who lands his first job at the family company. No nepotism here, folks.

Your character, a stickman right off a traffic sign, is assigned a series of menial human resources and IT tasks, like fixing the Wi-Fi router. Exactly how you reconnect the router is entirely your choice. You're the boss' kid. Rules need not apply. You can snake the cord through offices and hallways or send a printer through some drywall to make for a truly "open" floor plan.

The puzzle game has the same chaotic energy people grew to love with *Untitled Goose Game*, which released in the fall and quickly became a meme for all the ways you could wreak havoc on a small town. The possibilities are not as endless in *Good Job!* I never found myself blown away by all the possible levers you could pull, but you find solutions to simple tasks by applying some fun and destructive physics.

In the game, you work your way up the corporate ladder completing missions on every floor of the building. Every task is timed, and every item you break is accounted for once you've finished a task. The faster you get the job done, the better — encouraging players to think creatively and crack some eggs in the process. And *Good Job!* comes with a co-op mode, so you can maximize the chaos you spread across the cubicles.

The game takes six to eight hours to beat, depending on how fast you play, and is on the Nintendo Store for \$19.99.



Motion Twin

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe

## ON THE QT

## DIRECTIONS

The paths adjacent to the Bacchiglione and Retrone rivers are in Vicenza's old town. The graveled path by the Bacchiglione is next to the Via Nazario Sauro near the Antonio Fogazzaro nursery school at Via Nazario Sauro, 10. The bike path next to the Retrone is on Viale Antonio Giuriolo, a main thoroughfare.

## TIMES

Always open, perhaps inadvisable late at night.

## COSTS

Free

— Nancy Montgomery

**Walking a dog is one of the few acceptable reasons to be outdoors in northern Italy during the coronavirus lockdown. Walking on a graveled path next to one of Vicenza's little rivers provides a bit of nature.**

PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes



# Simple pleasures

River walk in Vicenza a welcome diversion

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

**W**here do you go when there's nowhere to go? People living in northern Italy, normally spoiled for great destinations, have been dealing with that question for two months. The region locked down in early March to slow the spread of the coronavirus, closing almost everything and banning nearly all travel beyond 200 meters from home.

My only passport out of the house was what for some had previously been just another chore: taking the dog out.

Downtown Vicenza, where I live, is known for its Renaissance architecture, not as a nature park. But near my apartment is a walking path flanked by a canopy of trees, a variety of grasses and two small rivers.

My dog has always loved it. During lockdown, I've appreciated it as much as him.

It's a 20-minute walk, past the now-closed elementary school, with palatial houses hidden by fences and shrubbery. It runs

along the Bacchiglione River, a mud-colored waterway most Americans would consider a canal at best, although it is 73 miles long and flows into the Gulf of Venice. It's never looked prettier than during lockdown.

The narrow, graveled path ends at some steps up to a bridge.

You and your dog cross and head back the same way you came, this time on an asphalt walking and bike lane next to the Retrone River. This river looks pretty much like the Bacchiglione, except it for some reason attracts more wildlife. There are ducks and coots to watch. On special days, a heron sitting on the bank will take graceful flight.

Some sort of mustelids — perhaps weasels — paddle about, and little salamanders scurry off at our approach.

And in one portion especially beloved by the dog, there are often tennis balls from the now-closed tennis club in the undergrowth.

Simple pleasures are the best, especially during lockdown.

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The Bacchiglione River runs through Vicenza, on to Padova and empties in the Gulf of Venice.



The Retrone River bike lane is popular with dog walkers.



The banks of the Retrone River in downtown Vicenza offer pretty vistas that in nonquarantine times invite artists and photographers.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# A future uncertain

## Recovery expected to be slow for battered tourism industry

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN  
Associated Press

Six months ago, the global tourism industry was celebrating a record year for travel. Now, it's decimated and facing a recovery that could take years.

Tourism Economics, a data and consulting firm, predicts global travel demand won't resume its normal pace until 2023.

When tourists do finally return, they will face a changed landscape that incorporates social distancing and other measures to calm residual fears over COVID-19, the disease that has so far killed more than 258,000 people worldwide and infected millions more.

"It takes time to shake fear from the hearts of people, not to mention the economy," said Mahmoud Hadhoud, founder of Egypt Knight Tours, who doesn't expect foreign tourists to start trickling back into Egypt until September.

Last week, Hilton, Marriott and Airbnb all announced enhanced cleaning procedures worldwide to ease travelers' minds. In Egypt, Hadhoud is removing cruises and hot air balloon rides from his packages and replacing them with tours of Egypt's vast western deserts, where travelers can keep their distance from one another.

At Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., multiple teams are working on scenarios, including putting more space between riders on roller coasters, said

John Sprouls, the resort's chief administrative officer, at a recent virtual event for tourism officials.

Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox said his company may sanitize dice between users, put fewer seats at blackjack tables and idle slot machines between players at its casinos in Las Vegas, Boston and Macau.

Gary Thulander, managing director of Chatham Bars Inn, a 106-year-old resort on Cape Cod, said the resort is planning many changes when it reopens this summer, including checking in guests via cellphones, letting them opt out of room service and lengthening dining hours so fewer guests will be eating at the same time.

The road to recovery will be long and hard for the tourism industry. The United Nations World Tourism Organization predicts global tourist arrivals — or visits from tourists who come to their destinations and stay at least one night — will fall 30% this year from the record 1.5 billion in 2019. Airlines have grounded nearly two-thirds of their planes as passengers vanish. Cruise ships are docked; some won't sail again until November.

Millions of people who depend on tourism are laid off or furloughed. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 8 million tourism-related workers are jobless right now, or about one-third of total U.S. unemployment, said Roger Dow, the president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

**Women wearing masks as a precaution against the new coronavirus walk April 23 at the Gyeongbok Palace in Seoul, South Korea.**

Alexandre de Juniac, CEO of the International Air Transport Association, the leading airline trade group, said carriers need to fill at least 70% of seats to break even on most flights. If they're required to block or remove many seats, they will either stop flying or raise prices 50%, he said.

That will delay recovery for places like Israel, which sees almost all of its tourists arrive by air. Diklah Cohen Sheinfeld, chief of staff of the Israeli Tourism Ministry's director general's office, said the tourism industry — which employs 250,000 Israelis — was the first to be impacted and will likely be the last to recover.

"There are no tourists and no entry to the country for tourists. The gates are totally closed," she said.

In some places, governments are stepping in to help the sector. Serge Cachan, president of the Astotel hotel chain in Paris, closed his 17 properties in March and expects to lose 70% of his business this year. But the French government will help the chain get through it, he said. The government is paying around 80% of furloughed hotel workers' salaries.

Many destinations anticipate travelers' behavior will change in the virus's wake. Pornthip Hirunkate, vice president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, thinks more people will come in small groups or seek personalized tours.

And Fuentès, who works as a tour guide in Spain's Granada province, thinks travelers will shift away from crowded beaches to the quieter interior mountains.

"It could be an opportunity to develop a new kind of tourism, which is going to be good for Spain, because in the last 10 years, the tourism boom



HAU DINH/AP

**A motorcyclist drives past a poster reminding people to guard their health against the new coronavirus April 14 in Hanoi, Vietnam.**

has been in quantity but not in quality," Fuentès said. He hopes tourism there picks back up by mid-August.

But not everyone is comfortable with reopening. Marco Michielli, who owns the 67-room San Marco Hotel in Bibione, a beach resort east of Venice, Italy, said many hoteliers worry their businesses will be ruined if the virus spreads on their properties. Some would rather reopen next year than serve guests this summer with desk staff and bartenders wearing masks.

"If we have rules approved by the ministry, some hotel owners would be convinced to start to open. But if the hotel must look like a COVID ward, many will refuse to open to guests," he said. Others say they need reassurance from science — not just tourist sites — before they travel.

Emma Barnes visited a dozen countries last year, including Serbia, Vietnam and Chile. This year, she had planned trips to Jordan and South Korea.

But right now, Barnes is work-

ing remotely in a tiny town in her native New Zealand. Airports near her are closed, so she's not sure when she'll get back to New York, where she works in publishing.

Barnes said she needs some peace of mind — a COVID-19 vaccine, or testing to make sure she isn't a carrier — before she resumes her travels.

"I don't think my desire to travel and explore other places is worth my risking the health of people in those places," Barnes said.

Others remain optimistic. Dedy Sulistyanto, the owner of a tour and adventure provider in Bali, Indonesia, has been promoting his business on social media while it's closed. He has received so many positive responses that he thinks tourism will resume quickly when restrictions are lifted. Most of his clients are domestic tourists from Indonesia.

"There are so many people out there very eager to do traveling," Sulistyanto said.



JOHN LOCKER/AP

**A sign advises people to practice social distancing to slow the spread of the coronavirus at the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada" sign amid a shutdown of casinos along the Las Vegas Strip.**

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe

## Thinking outside the takeout box

Necessity leads to innovation for some Kaiserslautern-area restaurants

By KARIN ZEITVOGEL  
Stars and Stripes

**R**estaurants have been particularly hard hit by German government restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus. Eateries' business models often involve having as many people as possible sitting at tables in a restricted space, enjoying a meal with friends or business partners. But that hasn't happened since late March, when the government told them they had to stop serving dine-in meals.

Some restaurants have filed for bankruptcy protection, some have shut up shop and asked customers to buy gift cards to use post-virus and yet others have switched to an entirely takeout and delivery operation, but say customer numbers are down. An exceptional few, meanwhile, are thinking outside the takeout box for ways of getting food to customers.

How to make worst better?  
Deliver it by toy train

Mario Ludwig was drawing a blank when he first started thinking of how he could get worst and other meals to customers at Der Fleischerimbiss in Kirchheimbolanden while maintaining social distancing rules. None of his ideas were affordable or viable. "And then I went into my son's room and saw his train, and I thought, 'We could start with something like that,'" Ludwig said.

On the day in late April that I made the 15-minute drive from Kaiserslautern to Der Fleischerimbiss, there were two large-gauge model trains on raised platforms in the snack bar. Customers wearing face masks and standing well back from one another used a microphone to order, placed their money on the flatcar behind the train on the left, and watched as it chugged roughly 10 feet up a track toward a plexiglass barrier — another layer of virus protection. There, a staff member took the payment and sent change back by train to the customer, while another prepared the order.

One man had a frikadele, Germany's version of the hamburger. A woman had several plastic containers filled with schnitzel, which she said she was going to heat up for Grandpa that evening. I ordered a bratwurst for 3 euros, which arrived within minutes on the train on the right, which had a tray affixed to its flatcar.

Ludwig makes the sausages himself and my bratwurst was juicy, with casing that almost melted in the mouth. Service was ultra-quick, too, even factoring in the train trip.

But would I have gone to a snack bar 15 miles away if there were no model trains?



A woman takes plastic containers filled with schnitzel from the delivery train April 30 at Der Fleischerimbiss in Kirchheimbolanden in Germany.



PHOTOS BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL/Stars and Stripes

A customer picks up a slice of cake she ordered from the new online shop at Cafe Susann in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

No. Would I go back now that I know how good homemade bratwurst can be? Yes, especially if the trains are still there. They might not be for long, though. Customer numbers are down by about half because of the virus, Ludwig said, and unless the restrictions on restaurants are relaxed soon and more people come in to the snack bar, he's thinking about closing down until the pandemic is over. Even if he does stay open, the trains are only likely to be a fixture while social distancing is in force. After that, Ludwig's 3-year-old will probably want his toys back.

## Cakes are the stars at photo shoots at Kaiserslautern cafe

Before the coronavirus, Cafe Susann in Kaiserslautern's pedestrian zone was often full of people lingering over lattes and tasting tortes. But customer numbers dropped sharply even before the government ordered restaurants to serve only takeout food, so the cafe's owner, Maik Susann Gemba, decided to shut the business down completely for a week to brainstorm ways to survive the pandemic.

"Everyone is in a very difficult financial situation," Gemba said. "But instead of protesting against politics and the virus, we need to try new things and show that we can be creative and find different ways to get food to our customers."

A web designer helped create an online shop where customers — including many members of the Kaiserslautern military community — can place orders for pickup or peruse a gallery of the cafe's cakes.

"Every morning, we do a cake photo shoot and post the pictures," Gemba said. "This is a forward-looking project. After corona, you'll still be able to order cakes from the website and see these pictures."

As of late April, there were more than a dozen pictures of cakes including classic German eggnog cake — sadly, out of stock when I ordered — a carrot cake, Weinstraßentorte, classic cheesecake and more.

The cheesecake I ordered was excellent. The cappuccino I got to go with it was small, especially if you're used to Starbucks sizes, but surprisingly good, given that I generally don't like the way Germans roast their coffee.

A line of people, all wearing face masks and standing a safe distance from each other, waited outside to pick up orders



A mixed berry sundae from Palazzo Sandro in Kaiserslautern, Germany, is one of dozens of cold treats that the ice cream shop delivers to addresses up to 3.75 miles away.

they'd placed online the day before. Pickup is between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. the day after you order. You can also just show up at the cafe on Osterstrasse and see what's available, or grab a coffee, which doesn't require pre-ordering.

## Isolation is better with ice cream, and this place delivers

Palazzo Sandro in downtown Kaiserslautern has a service that's perfect for these coronavirus times, when many might be hankering for ice cream while hunkering down: they deliver ice cream.

You have to live just under 4 miles of the ice cream maker's shop on Marktstrasse to use the service, which they've offered for years. There's no charge for delivery, but the minimum order is 12 euros, which would get you three kids' sundaes or two frozen yogurts or ice creams with booze. Options include milkshakes, scoops, and ice cream and fro-yo without alcohol.

Palazzo Sandro guarantees that what's delivered to your home or office will be "exactly like the ice cream you'd get in the shop," Kaiserslautern manager Vilimira Velkova said. Orders are placed on the [ichwilleis.de](http://ichwilleis.de) ("I want ice cream") website — worth a visit to gawk at the frozen creations — or by phone. There's also an [ichwilleis.de](http://ichwilleis.de) app, but I was unable to access it.

## KNOW &amp; GO

## Der Fleischerimbiss

Address: Am Woogmorgen 5, 67292 Kirchheimbolanden, Tel.: +49 (0)173 5601700

Directions: Take the A63 toward Frankfurt from Kaiserslautern and get off at exit 11. Left at the first roundabout, right at the next one, and you'll see a car wash place on the left. The snack bar is right there.

Hours: Mondays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday is schnitzel day.

Menu: Not much for vegetarians. Owner Mario Ludwig is a butcher and makes all of his worst himself. Most wursts are 3 euros, and fries are 2.30 euros. Nonalcoholic beverages including coffee are available.

## Cafe Susann

Address: Osterstrasse 7, 67655 Kaiserslautern, Tel.: +49 (0)631 84286771

Directions: Just off Eisenbahnstrasse but in Kaiserslautern's pedestrian zone.

Menu: Orders can be placed online at [cafesusann.de/en/shop](http://cafesusann.de/en/shop) from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. for pickup the next day between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday. Lunches can also be ordered a day ahead and picked up the following day. You can also show up at the cafe and get whatever they happen to have. Lunch changes daily and costs around 8.50 euros. Cakes and cookies start at 2 euros. Coffee and non-coffee drinks are also available.

## Palazzo Sandro

Address: Marktstrasse 37, 67655 Kaiserslautern, Tel.: +49 (0)631 75000942

In the heart of Kaiserslautern's pedestrian zone.

Hours: The shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday and holidays from noon to 10 p.m. — longer if the weather's nice. Orders for delivery can be placed daily from 12:45 p.m. until 9:45 p.m. daily at [ichwilleis.de](http://ichwilleis.de) or via telephone. Delivery charges vary. All three establishments offer catering services.

— Karin Zeitvogel

The estimated time of arrival of the small motorcycle with a cooler equipped with a very large ice pack will be posted on the website when you order. For me, it said 40 minutes, so I just walked the five minutes to the shop and picked up my order — a frozen yogurt with amaretto liqueur and cookies.

Outside, signs showed in increments of 1.5 meters — Germany's mandated social distance — how much longer I had to wait before tucking into my treat. It was the only time that social distancing reminders have made me smile, and knowing there was ice cream at the end of the line made obeying the key coronavirus restriction more bearable.

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

# Commemorate VE Day by keeping these sites in mind

**V**ictory in Europe Day, often shortened to VE Day or V-E Day, celebrates the Allies' acceptance of the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany's armed forces on May 8, 1945. The 75th anniversary commemorations of this key date in history were to include a display by the Red Arrows and a Battle of Britain memorial flight above Buckingham Palace in London and the laying of a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris by President Emmanuel Macron. The biggest Victory Parade of all time was to have taken place in Moscow's Red Square on May 9. But measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have canceled public celebrations and given us other reasons to consider why cooperation between nations is as timely now as it ever was.

Europe is awash in sites that keep the horrors and sacrifices of World War II firmly within the public consciousness. In no way does this list pretend to be comprehensive: at the least, may it serve as a reminder of the importance of including places that will foster quiet contemplation into one's European travel plans whenever possible.

**American Battle Monuments Commission Cemeteries and Memorials:** The ABMC operates and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 30 federal memorials, monuments and markers scattered across 17 foreign countries including Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. These meticulously maintained properties commemorate the service and sacrifice of Americans who served in both World War I and World War II. All these places are sacred and worth a visit in their own right. The Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial just southwest of Liege, Belgium, is unique among ABMC cemeteries in that it served as the central identification point for the entire European Theater of Operations from the last days of the war until 1960. This is the final resting place



Karen Bradbury

for 5,317 Americans, about two thirds of whom were airmen of the U.S. Army Air Forces. The Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in St. Avold, France, contains the largest number of graves of U.S. military dead of World War II in Europe: 10,489 souls rest there. Online: [abmc.gov](http://abmc.gov)

**Anne Frank House in Amsterdam:** On July 6, 1942, Anne Frank and her family, along with the Van Pels family and Fritz Pfeffer, went into hiding in a secret annex of a building at Prinsengracht 263. Anne's father, Otto Frank, had run his business from this address. The office staff knew about their hiding place, and helped the eight people sheltering there by supplying them with food and news from the outside world. During this time, Anne kept a diary in which she confided her hopes and dreams for the future, concern for her family and the hardships and everyday annoyances of life in such close quarters, seldom losing her inherent optimism. On Aug. 4, 1944, the group's hiding place was betrayed to the Gestapo, and those who had sheltered there were deported to concentration camps. Anne perished of typhus at the Bergen-Belsen camp in February 1945. Anne's father was the only member of the group to survive.

The Anne Frank House Museum recalls their time spent in the annex through photographs, original objects belonging to those in hiding, Anne's original diary and other items. A multimedia space sends visitors on a virtual journey through the premises, bolstered by background info about WWII. Entry to The Anne Frank House typically sells out months in advance, so book entry tickets well ahead. Online: [annefrank.org](http://annefrank.org)

**Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp in Oswiecim, Poland:** Some 45 miles west of Krakow lies the site of a vast Nazi death camp. Originally conceived as a detention center for political prisoners, it gradually evolved into a network of camps in which the Jewish people and other perceived enemies of the state were used as slave labor and exterminated in gas chambers. During the time in which the camp was in operation, from May 20, 1940, until its liberation by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945, it is estimated that more than one million people perished there.

A visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial, symbol of terror, genocide and the Holocaust, is free of charge. Entry tickets should be obtained in advance, and groups are required to hire the services of a guide. Due to the gut-wrenchingly explicit nature of some of the exhibits, it is not recommended for children under 14. Online: [auschwitz.org](http://auschwitz.org)

**Bastogne War Museum in Bastogne, Belgium:** From Dec. 16, 1944, until Jan. 25, 1945, the Allies held off the Nazi attempt to push through to Antwerp in the heavily forested, hilly Ardennes region of Belgium. The Allied's front line took on the look of a massive bulge; hence the name.

The Bastogne War Museum covers the key events of WWII, the ordeals of the combatants, and what life was like for the civilian population during this fateful time. The nearby Mardasson Memorial is a tangible sign of Belgium's unwavering gratitude to the U.S. forces killed and wounded during the battle estimated to have claimed about 19,000 American lives. On the second weekend of December each year, Nuts Weekend recalls the start of the battle with wreath-laying ceremonies, parades of military vehicles and thousands of costumed re-enactors. Online: [bastognewarmuseum.be](http://bastognewarmuseum.be)

**Churchill War Rooms in London:** The Imperial War Museum is made up of five properties shedding light on the conflicts in which British or Commonwealth forces have been involved since 1914. The museums aim to foster the study and understanding of the history of modern war and the wartime experience. The Cabinet War Rooms are found in the underground complex that housed a British government command center throughout World War II, while the Churchill Museum explores the life of its namesake, British statesman Winston Churchill. The group of basement offices in Whitehall that served as the center of Britain's war effort housed a military information hub based around a map room. The place in which the prime minister and his war cabinet sheltered from



iStock

**Dozens of American military cemeteries and memorials are scattered throughout Europe. The cemetery of Meuse-Argonne, east of the French village of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon northwest of Verdun, is the final resting place of 14,246 Americans.**

bomb raids and plotted their next moves is open daily to visitors. Online: [iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms](http://iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms)

**D-Day Landing Beaches of Normandy, France:** D-Day, recognized as the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare, was staged on June 6, 1944. In what was code-named Operation Overlord, the Allies used more than 5,000 watercraft to land more than 150,000 troops on five beaches along the coast of Normandy in France. Early in the morning, Allied airborne forces parachuted into drop zones across northern France, and ground troops landed across five assault beaches — Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. By the end of the day, the Allies had established a foothold along the coast and could begin their advance into France. While the operation did not bring an immediate end to the war in Europe, it did begin the process through which victory was eventually achieved. An estimated 2,000 American troops lost their lives storming the beaches, with thousands more wounded and missing in action.

A trip to WWII sites in Normandy should be concentrated on the roughly 50 miles of Atlantic coast between Utah Beach in the west to Sword Beach in the east. Itinerary essentials would include the WWII Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, the final resting place for nearly 10,000 Americans, at Omaha Beach; the Utah Beach Landing Museum, the Airborne Museum, and the Dead Man's Corner Museum at Utah Beach; and Ste-Mere Eglise, a village liberated by American paratroopers. Online: [tinyurl.com/z57xe78](http://tinyurl.com/z57xe78)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

**The Kehlsteinhaus, also known as Hitler's Eagle's Nest, is a Third Reich-era cabin on top of the summit of the Kehlstein, near Berchtesgaden, Germany.**

iStock



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## FROM PAGE 26

**The Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden, Germany:** The "Eagle's Nest," or Kehlsteinhaus, perches high atop the Kehlstein Mountain at an elevation of 6,017 feet in Obersalzberg in the Alps. This gift to Adolf Hitler on the occasion of his 50th birthday in 1939 was a present from his inner circle. Hitler made 14 official visits to the place, although he wasn't fond of it. In addition to his fear of heights and dislike of the thin mountain air, he worried about the safety of the elevator and lightning strikes. The extravagant locale, built with slave labor, was just the tip of a vast compound that served as Hitler's second seat of government. Many of the decisions leading up to World War II were made there.

A typical visit to the area includes a visit to the Obersalzberg complex and the Documentation Center, the remains of the bunker system, and the Eagle's Nest itself, which is reached by shuttle bus. Due to snows at its high elevation, the Eagle's Nest generally opens in May and remains accessible until the end of October. Online: kehlsteinhaus.de

**Nuremberg Trials Memorial in Nuremberg, Germany:** In the courtroom of the Nuremberg Palace of Justice, leaders of the Nazi regime were brought before an International Military Tribunal to answer for their crimes. The trials that took place between Nov. 20, 1945, and Oct. 1, 1946, have had an enormous influence on the development of international criminal law up to the present day. Following the Trial of Major War Criminals, 12 additional trials were held. These proceedings stretched from Dec. 1946 to April 1949 and differed from the first trial in that they were conducted before U.S. military tribunals. Courtroom 600 remains a working courtroom, and if no trials are scheduled there, it is open to visitors. The information and documentation center is located on the top floor of the courthouse. Online: tinyurl.com/yb8kqtjf

**Oradour-sur-Glane, France:** On June 10, 1944, just a few days after the Allied landings in Normandy, German troops entered this village in central France and rounded up its residents. Its men were massacred in cattle sheds by machine gun fire while women and children were locked in a church that was set on fire. A total of 642 civilians lost their lives to this senseless and brutal act. After the war's end, Charles De Gaulle decided the village of Oradour should be rebuilt next to where the town once stood, and the burnt-out remains of the old village should be preserved as a memorial to the atrocities of war and a warning to future generations. A simple sign above the entrance to the skeletal remains of the village exhorts visitors to "Souviens-Toi" — "Remember." Online: oradour.org

**Topography of Terror in Berlin:** On the grounds where the headquarters of the Gestapo and the SS once stood, original documents, photos and 3D graphics paint a gruesome picture of the location's history and the crimes the Nazis committed all over



The Churchill War Rooms in London are a draw for tourists.

Europe. Across 15 stations, five overriding themes are addressed, including the National Socialist takeover, the institutions of terror, persecution and extermination within the Reich, the SS in the occupied territories, and the war's end and postwar period. Documentation is offered in both German and English, and audio guides are available. Online: topographie.de/en/topography-of-terror

**Villa Am Grossen, Wannsee, Germany:** On Jan. 20, 1942, senior government officials of Nazi Germany Schutzstaffel (SS) leaders met in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee. The purpose of the Wannsee Conference was to ensure the co-operation of administrative leaders of various governmental departments in

the implementation of the Final Solution to the Jewish question. Plans called for Jews in German-occupied Europe to be deported to Poland and murdered there.

The Wannsee House, site of the conference, is now a Holocaust memorial. Next to a pretty lake used by Berliners for recreation, visitors can gain insight into the planning of the Holocaust through original documents including Third Reich propaganda such as posters and leaflets, audiovisual presentations about the history of Jewish persecution, photos and books about the Jewish ghettos and information on the logistics of the deportation and extermination of Jews of Europe. A copy of the actual meeting minutes is also on display here. Online: ghwk.de/en



istock photos

The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam is a very popular tourist destination — it's best to book tickets months in advance.

## Germany

## DIRECTORY

## Restaurants

## KAISERSLAUTERN



**COCKTAIL CASINO**  
**HAPPY HOUR**  
**ENCHILADA**

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Carrying on with business unusual

## Care and feeding of animals at Disney's (closed) Animal Kingdom

By DEWAYNE BEVIL  
Orlando Sentinel

It can be fun to daydream about animals taking over Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park while it's closed. Maybe lions would venture off their rock at the Kilimanjaro Safaris attraction for a new sunny spot or the bats would go crazy or the elephants would take a dip near the "Rivers of Light" amphitheater. Or maybe they'd make a break for it over to Epcot. You know, just a bunch of mammals, blowing off steam in the coronavirus era.

Of course, that's pure fantasy land. Instead, Mark Penning, Disney Parks' vice president for animals, science and environment, filled me in on the current reality, which has some Disney employees still on duty to take care of all the animals on Walt Disney World property, which includes not only the Animal Kingdom crew but also creatures at Epcot (The Living Seas) and at Fort Wilderness.

"I feel very confident right now that our animals are all in a great place," says Penning, who has been with the company since 2012.

We chatted about baby zebras, the animals' air-conditioned bedrooms, an unusual Earth Day 2020, the physical beauty of a theme park that's (temporarily) closed and his educated guess about which DAK residents might be missing park guests.

Here's what Penning, in his own words, had to say.

### On disrupting the routine

"Animals are kind of like people in the sense that they like routine; they like to know what's coming. And you know, the surprises are not something that they, you know, really want to have too often. So, the park is definitely different right now. ... We study their behavior. It's not just a matter of throwing food out and, you know, animals are going to be fine. We study them really carefully. We've got amazing scientists that understand what the animals are trying to tell us and how they're behaving.

"We're trying to keep the same routines, you know, same times that we feed.

We provide enrichment for them to keep them thinking and doing different things. They're doing well at the moment, but we're really looking forward to opening the park up and sharing."

### On making contact

"There are some animals, like in our Affection Section, that love contact with people, so they're standing around saying, 'Why am I not getting petted today?' So people are going through and talking and scratching and just making contact because that's what they love."

### On the gorillas' reactions

"I think it's fair to say the four bachelor



JOE BURBANK, ORLANDO SENTINEL/TNS

Gino, the patriarch of the western lowland gorilla troop, is enjoying the solitude while Animal Kingdom is closed, said Mark Penning, Disney Parks' vice president for animals, science and environment.

gorillas quite enjoy a little more peace and quiet. ... Whereas the family really enjoy, I think, having people around because they find it entertaining.

"We've got this young-ish gorilla, Lilly. Lilly's just the funniest character. She will take a banana leaf or something like that or a piece of enrichment, wrap it around herself and then roll down the hill towards the window where the guests are watching. And the guests find it hysterically funny, and she loves the fact that what she did made everybody react, so she'll go and do it again. I think she's probably looking up and saying 'This is a little boring. Where's my audience?'"

### On sleeping habits

"To a very large extent, our animals have got an air-conditioned bedroom that they're able to retire to when they choose.

"A lot of what we do is trying to give our animals choices and make them feel that they're in control of their environment, because that just makes them more comfortable, more settled. They thrive that way.

"At Animal Kingdom at nighttime, when the last safari has gone through, most of those animals head to the barns because they really want to spend the night in their bedrooms.

"Whereas at Animal Kingdom Lodge, animals prefer to stay out at nighttime and then during the day, they'll actually come in. ... We want the animals to come in the backstage areas for a short time every day. And the reason for that is, is we want to be able to be up close and see that each one is healthy."

### On animals and COVID-19

"I think our strategy can be summarized very simply as we've got great staff,

we have incredibly talented veterinarians that are really smart and animal-care staff that follow CDC guidelines — face masks and that kind of thing — to protect animals and to protect our staff too. We also are in regular contact with the experts. You know, there are some folks out there that specialize in this kind of thing, whether they are virologists, epidemiologists, pathologists. We're in contact with them as well because we want to evolve our thinking as the latest science comes out, so it's a learning time for all of us, but we're following the guidelines to the letter and being really careful. ... I'm in contact with the folks from the Bronx Zoo (where tigers tested positive for coronavirus) ... and at the moment we're feeling very comfortable with our animals."

### On the baby zebras

"The two of them, of course, as youngsters are just frolicking all over the place, bouncing around like pogo sticks on the savanna and doing great. But, of course, this is their normal. The savannas are empty; there are not a lot of trucks coming through, and so we're going to have to acclimate them again. ... We do send trucks through every day as people are checking on them, putting up feed and whatever, but we'll certainly be careful about acclimating them again as we open up."

### On the park in bloom

"It looks magnificent. It's just beautiful from the moment because there is no horticulture team trimming away the vegetation. The vegetation is really full and lush and beautiful at the moment. The park is filled out; there are blossoms everywhere. It's full colors and gorgeous. It's just such a beautiful place for us to be right now."



WALT DISNEY CO.

Mark Penning, Disney Parks' vice president for animals, science and environment, comes face to face with a porcupette recently born at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL &amp; FOOD

# Have cup, will travel

8 coffees you can make at home that will leave you feeling like an intrepid explorer

BY NATALIE B. COMPTON  
The Washington Post

As the world turns to edible entertainment during social distancing, a number of food and drink trends have virally emerged. One of the major ones (next to an explosion in bread-making) has been dalgona coffee, a whipped beverage whose internet takeover began with YouTube videos out of South Korea. It's frothy and fun to drink — and oddly calming to watch.

But dalgona isn't the only distinctive global coffee you can concoct at home right now. Here are eight traditional varieties to try.

## Italy: Ristretto

To drink coffee like an Italian, you're going to need enough espresso to support a morning-to-evening caffeine routine. Start early with a biscotti or a croissant and jam, paired with a hit of ristretto.

"Ristretto is traditionally a short shot of espresso coffee made with the normal amount of ground coffee but extracted with about half the amount of water in the same amount of time by using a finer grind," Il Salvatino executive chef Silvia Grossi explained to The Post, in an email from Fiesole, Italy.

Grossi said it's best to use Arabica or Robusta coffee blends to capture the Italian essence. And you'll want to keep things simple when it comes to add-ons. "Generally, when we talk about espresso, the few variations or ingredients added in very small quantities are: milk foam, a drop of liquor (usually anise or grappa), and the coffee served in a cup with hazelnut cream," Grossi said.

## Vietnam: Iced coffee

With the arrival of warmer weather, you may find yourself craving iced coffee. A perfect solution? Vietnam's most popular coffee drink: iced coffee with sweetened condensed milk. (Ca phe sua da)

To attempt an authentic recreation of your own, Sahra Nguyen, a Vietnamese-American filmmaker and founder of Nguyen Coffee Supply, recommends using 100 percent Peaberry Robusta coffee beans, which deliver nearly twice the caffeine content of Arabica beans. Nguyen Coffee Supply makes things easy by selling a Vietnamese coffee kit online, complete with a stainless-steel, single-servingphin filter and either whole or ground beans, grown in Da Lat, Vietnam.

Once you're stocked with the right supplies (Nguyen says an electric kettle and a good coffee grinder will deliver the freshest coffee experience), mix your drink and call your friends.

"Saying 'đồng ca phê,' which translates to 'let's get coffee,' is the most common invitation to hang out in villages and cities alike," Nguyen said in an email interview.

## Australia: Flat white

If you're missing traveling in London (or New Zealand), make yourself a flat white.

"[The flat white is] one of our great Australian innovations, along with a lamington and TimTam," Andy Stone, the vice president of marketing at Australian-inspired coffee company Bluestone Lane, said in an email.

Stone says that an authentic Australian flat white

requires a huge amount of precision. You'll need a shot of espresso (Stone's pick is Bluestone Lane's Maverick espresso blend), two shots of steamed milk and an 8-ounce ceramic cup to do it right.

## Singapore: Kopi

You can't feast at a Singapore hawk center during the pandemic, but you can embrace kopitiam (or coffee shop) culture at home if you have some butter and a little time.

"To enhance their flavor, [Robusta] beans are roasted in a wok with butter or lard and sugar until they turn deep brown," Rachel Loh, a regional director for the Singapore Tourism Board, explained over email. "This caramelizes the beans and gives them a unique aroma."

After their buttering, the beans are ground and strained through a sock filter. Finally, the coffee is mixed with sweet condensed milk or evaporated milk, or served straight.

For the full Singaporean experience, you'll need a snack, too.

"Most Singaporeans enjoy sipping their kopi while snacking on some kaya toast — a local breakfast staple of charcoal-grilled or toasted bread with a slice of butter and kaya spread (a traditional jam made from coconut and eggs)," said Loh. "More often than not, it is also accompanied by two savory soft-boiled eggs with runny yolks and a dash of dark soya sauce."

## Miami: Cuban espresso

In Miami, a coffee break is as much about socializing as it is a midday energy boost.

"It's a moment to chat and have coffee. It's a little pick-me-up in the afternoon," said Adrian Gonzalez, the owner of David's Cafe Cafecito in Miami Beach.

The routine for customers at Gonzalez's 42-year-old cafe, he said, is to grab Cuban espresso from the shop's walk-up window, then divide it up among friends while they swap stories from their day.

Miami's official cafe time is 3:05 p.m., in honor of its 305 area code, so replicate the experience by taking a video-chat coffee break with friends then. Go the extra mile by enjoying your coffee with guava, cheese or meat pastelitos (a traditional Cuban pastry) on the side.

## France: French press

If you've ever traveled to France, you almost certainly set aside time to sit at a cafe for coffee. French cafes date back centuries, and are as essential to a trip to the country as seeing the Louvre or eating a baguette.

"French cafes have a distinct place in history and

literature — from the French Revolution to Hemingway, cafes were used as places to create ideas, write, gather, and plot," emailed Berna Canovas, the associate director of marketing at Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa, in Champagne, France.

Until we can fly to Paris and take a seat at a cafe's sidewalk table, we can satisfy our French-cafe cravings at home with un cafe, a cup of espresso. Or, for the Royal Champagne treatment, use a French press.

"We always serve room service with a French press," said Canovas. "Our guests wouldn't have it otherwise."

The best time to sip yours? 4 p.m., in accordance with France's "Le gouter" tradition, alongside a small dessert.

## Guatemala: Guatemalan coffee

You may already drink coffee from Guatemala today.

But do you drink it like a Guatemalan?

"People in Guatemala traditionally drink black coffee with a splash of milk and some sugar," Marcela Jongezoon, chef of Casa Palopo in Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, said in an email. "Guatemalan coffee is amazing, so it does not need much more to make it great."

The key to getting the most out of Guatemalan coffee is making sure your beans are fresh and that you grind them yourself. (Jongezoon's favorites are from the Guatemalan cities of Huehuetenango and Antigua.)

"I would recommend you buy whole-grain coffee and either grind it at home or take it to a local supermarket to do it for you," said Jongezoon. "Make sure you read the label in detail to check for freshness and shelf life."

## Bali: Kopi

Time seems to slow down in Bali, whether you're listening to the sound of waves crashing in Uluwatu or to traditional gamelan music in the jungle. And locals and visitors alike can take in the calming splendor of the Indonesian island over a cup of Kopi Bali.

"The secret to great Balinese coffee comes during the roasting process, and everyone has different recipes," Mark Swinton, general manager of the resort Capella Ubud, Bali, said in an email. "The tradition is in general 1 kilo of coffee plus .5 kilo of rice added together, then roasted."

After the mixture's roasting is complete, grind it into a powder, add a tablespoon of coffee mix and a tablespoon of sugar to a glass of hot water, and stir. To alter the intensity, vary the amount of rice, or roast the mixture for different lengths of time.

Pull it off properly, and for a moment, it'll almost (just almost) be as if you're really there.



## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Connection can happen no matter what stage your relationship is in, whether married, newly dating, long distance, and everything else in between.

# Locked down, but not locked out of love

Relationship experts suggest ways couples can grow in intimacy during the pandemic

BY CHRISTEN A. JOHNSON  
Chicago Tribune

**B**eing locked in the house together means couples have to find creative, intentional ways to spend quality time with one another. Whether it's a game night, movie night or something more romantic, nurturing your relationship and cultivating meaningful connection, especially in the midst of a world crisis, is critical.

Michelle Herzog, a licensed marriage and family therapist and certified sex therapist at The Center for Mindful Living in Chicago, says spending intentional time with your significant other is important for your relationship's health.

"It's especially important right now because we can go throughout the day without connecting," Herzog said. "It's also a time where people are really grieving a lot of losses. If you have a partner available to you, it's such a good time to say, 'Can you just sit with me,' or 'Can we talk?' and really just be in this moment and be present with each other—that's how connection builds and sustains itself."

If you're going to prioritize a date night at home, all the distractions have to be put away, Herzog said, like no TV or phones. Herzog also emphasized putting in effort.

"Dates are not going to just happen, they have to be planned," she said. "It's important that couples take turns and really put the effort in: set the mood, order the food, get the game, sign up for the class, whatever it is. Put the effort into that just like you would outside of your house."

Connection can happen no matter what stage your relationship is in, whether married, newly dating, long distance, and everything else in between. Since physical connection isn't an option for some couples at the moment, the focus should be on deepening your emotional intimacy. Julie Spira, a cyber dating expert, tells couples in long-distance relationships to "always end your calls and chats by saying, 'I love you.' "It can't be said enough, especially when you're feeling isolated and lonely," Spira said.

Below are a few date night ideas and relationship tips—tailored to your relationship situation—if you're feeling stumped on ways to connect during the quarantine.

## If you've been together six months or less

- **Sightsee.** "I love the idea of traveling around the world without a passport," Spira said. "There are thousands of museums with virtual tours, and you can take turns in selecting what city or country you'd like to visit."

- **Dine separately.** "If your date night includes cocktails and dinner, send a food delivery to each other so you can dine from the same menu," Spira said. "Don't forget to light some candles and dress as if you were on a date."

- **Plan future dates.** Make a list of all dates and places to visit together once the home order is over, Herzog said. "Talk about the dates and places that excite you and that you want to get to and show each other. This helps to get to know each other."

- **Keep it light.** Play fun games online,

like Bingo or shared puzzles, Spira suggested. She also suggested binge-watching shows together on streaming services, like the Netflix Party extension on Google Chrome.

## If you're currently far away

- **Engage the wanderlust.** "Full-out plan a trip you'd want to do together," Herzog said. Talk about what you're excited about, go through all the details and make an itinerary—just don't book the tickets yet, she said. "This will give you and your partner something to look forward to when this is over."

- **Reminisce.** "Go through old photos of yourselves together on a video call and recount memories of good times," Herzog said. "Take this opportunity to increase emotional intimacy while you can't be physically together."

- **Make a meal.** Pick a recipe online, and make a meal together if you are in same time zone, Herzog suggested.

## If you live together

- **Cash out.** The banks are still open. Actually walk in and speak with a teller (with your mask on, of course), and withdraw the approximate cash you'd spend on a regular date night—but get it in all ones. Create a sexy setup at home, dig out an old Halloween costume, and give your partner the stack of \$1 bills to throw at you or pin on you whilst you derobe. You now have an in-house strip club.

- **Fort Fridays.** It's as simple as it sounds—until you actually try to keep the thing from caving in, but that's a part of the fun! Grab some chairs and old blan-

kets, and start rearranging those couches to create an indoor fort. Place a few extra blankets on the ground for cushioning purposes. Grab a few board games and favorite snacks or pop in a movie to watch from your new little temporary abode.

- **Indoor camping.** Very similar to fort building, but here you already have the equipment. Set that tent up in the living room or basement and microwave some s'mores! Later, go skinny-dipping together in a warm bubble bath.

- **Club quarantine.** Every so often, musicians and DJs will take to Instagram Live and give tens of thousands of people hours of free music. During your favorite artist's next set—a popular one has been DJ D'Nice's recurring sets, which he actually dubbed "Club Quarantine"—turn the lights down low, put the speaker up high and even pop a few bottles to get that real nightclub feel.

## If you want to be outside, though social distancing

- **Backyard picnic.** Synchronize your work-from-home calendars to have lunch at the same time. Pack a small meal to take to eat outside together, whether at a nearby picnic table or in your own backyard.

- **Get active.** "If you enjoy bike riding and the weather permits, there are bike trails that you and your partner can ride on, as long as you're wearing masks," Spira said. "If you prefer cardio, take a run with your partner. If you've decided to pick up carryout from a local restaurant, take a walk together to pick up your order."

## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

# Tempo slows for wedding singers

## COVID-19 has left many in the industry without gigs indefinitely

By AUGUST BROWN  
Los Angeles Times

Until a few weeks ago, if you got married in L.A. and hired a mariachi band, there was a good chance that Susie Garcia's family played you down the aisle.

The singer and bandleader has fringed her own group, the renowned all-female Mariachi Las Colibri, for a decade and has seen generations of Mexican-American Angelenos through birthdays, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Her husband, Pepe Martinez Jr., leads his own band, Mariachi Angeles, inspired by his father, the founder of legendary group Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan.

Almost every weekend this spring, the two were booked to perform traditional music at cultural events and regale young couples at weddings across Southern California. That is, until early March, when COVID-19 turned everyone's future around.

"We crossed out about 15 gigs in a week," Garcia said. "Wedding after wedding, planners were calling me devastated, like, 'What do we do?'"

The answer, as every musician and event planner soon learned, was nothing. Life would be on hold for months until the disease abated.

While the virus has upended touring, shuttered venues and left artists scrambling to livestream living-room concerts, there's much more to the live music industry than that spotlight. Giggling bands and DJs, the kind who perform at hundreds of weddings, bar and

bat mitzvahs and private parties across L.A., don't play globally broadcast all-star fundraisers but have been decimated just the same. Their livelihoods may come back eventually, but the loss of reliable gigs at the peak of wedding season has been sudden and staggering.

Attendees don't just lose a show. They lose the backing music to the most important days of their lives.

The wedding industry isn't the first place most look to see the fallout of COVID-19 on the music business. But it's a huge sector that's a clandestine livelihood for many studio and touring acts.

Compared to the financial gamble and myriad uncertainties of touring original material, playing Motown classics in a hotel ballroom is usually a steady gig. COVID-19, unfortunately, arrived just in time to vaporize those jobs.

"We've survived fires and mudslides at our locations, but to have every event for maybe six months all off the table, that really pulled the rug out from under us," said Jesse Kivel, a musician and co-founder of Dart Collective, an L.A. event-music firm that's grown into a hub for indie musicians and DJs to make money between tours. Kivel's firm hires dozens of artists and instrumentalists and had booked about 200 weddings and events for the spring high season.

Many of those couples will eventually reschedule when COVID-19 lets up. Jen Nordin, 28, was set to marry Keith Kniland, 37, in March at the Hideaway country club in the Coachella Valley, where Nordin's parents had a home growing up.



DANIA MAXWELL, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Susie Garcia poses for a portrait April 26 in the Rowland Heights area of Los Angeles. She is part of the all-female band Mariachi Las Colibri, which lost many wedding gigs due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The San Francisco tech-industry couple booked Dart's string ensemble for the ceremony and a Dart DJ for the after-party, after discovering the firm on wedding sites and Instagram. Dart had the "fun and classy" vibes they wanted for their music, Nordin said. Although they had to kick their wedding back nearly a year due to COVID-19, they're staying optimistic.

"It felt selfish and trivial to be sad about it," Nordin said. "Letting go of something you've dreamed of is always a tough pill to swallow, but there is nothing quite like this global pandemic to put things into perspective. If we can survive isolation together, we can survive anything."

Other couples made it work with a little improvisation.

"With a wedding, there's a 'the show must go on' feeling, but we weren't going to risk people's lives," said Terry Case, 41, an engineer in Silicon Valley who had booked his wedding for late March in the Santa Cruz area. After California issued its stay-at-home orders, he and his fiancée instead threw a socially distanced ceremony with six friends in a nearby park. The band they had originally booked, Coffee Zombie Collective, even recorded the song for their closing dance as new spouses.

Right now, everyone in the industry is similarly scrambling. Kivel, who cut his teeth in the L.A. rock group Kisses, knows it's tumultuous when gigs fall through.

"A lot of our touring musicians make a stable income from our gig work so they can do a tour that maybe breaks even. Ultimately, we pay the bills," he said. When that work ends too, it's

an enormous challenge to stay above water.

"Even if you get a good day rate [playing weddings], when you break it all down, it becomes a very normal blue-collar income," he said. "How do you get from here to 12 or 18 months from now as a performer if you don't have other revenue streams?"

Popular artists are used to the on-and-off cycles of touring and know what to expect as far as saving for the lean months. Some acts in genres like hip-hop or pop can rely on streaming revenue for income. Others take creative approaches to livestreaming that may keep fans' interest until shows resume.

Workaday musicians often have no such options. Some can turn to composing or online instrument lessons to supplement their income for now. But if you relied on playing for crowds, this is the first time since before the Jazz Age when all gatherings — even prosaic events like company holiday parties — are off the table due to the pandemic.

"It's such a unique thing. Other economic downturns have occurred or there's been socioeconomic situations like wars, riots and strikes, but none of them required specifically not gathering in spaces," said Brian Pincus, a musician and bandleader whose family business, the Culver City, Calif.-based Bob Galt Music, has booked dance and soul bands for weddings and other events in L.A. for 40 years.

"We're hunkering down and bracing ourselves, and there are going to be cash flow issues," he said, "but if we can ever open back up enough to have parties, it's gonna be an insane last

quarter."

In the meantime, though, those musicians have to figure out how to make ends meet. Bruce Garnitz, a singer and guitarist who has performed with bands at weddings and events around L.A. since the '90s, often becomes part of his clients' lives. He's sometimes played the same person's bar mitzvah and wedding decades apart.

Right now, he would be playing a couple of weddings every weekend and four or five gigs throughout the week. When hired, he pays backing musicians, lighting techs and roadies, helping many on the margins of the music industry stay afloat.

Post-COVID, he's teaching rock band classes and giving instrument lessons online. But for him and many gigging musicians he works with, replacement wages are difficult to find.

"I know how much income we generate for folks," Garnitz said. "This is a really tough time for working and performing musicians."

Who knows how long the COVID-19 lockdown will last, or what kind of gigs await on the other side. Maybe couples will pare wedding expenses if the expected recession proves severe. But even in the midst of a pandemic, people fall in love, children are born and loved ones pass away. People will need to gather to commemorate it all. When that day comes, they'll need a band.

"The last gig we played in March, I was like, 'Should we be here? Health-wise, should we have come?'" Garcia said. "I felt very torn. But music is a staple of our culture. And that couple deserved their moment."



MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Dart DJ co-founder Jesse Kivel, left, speaks with colleagues while DJs Aaron Castle, center, and Dan Terndrup spin records during a gig in 2015 at the Ace Hotel in Los Angeles. A former rock musician, Kivel knows how challenging it can be to lose gigs.

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



Brooklyn's Cobble Hill Cinemas, shown here on March 31, remains closed due to the COVID-19 crisis.

iStock

## FADE TO BLACK

A glimpse of life without movie theaters amid the coronavirus shutdown

BY JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

Jennifer Page jokes that four months in, this decade is already the worst of her life.

A server at a New York resort, she's out of work due to the pandemic. After someone tested positive at her mother's nursing home, Page moved her into a room off the dining room. Two weeks ago, her father died. The day after his memorial, she and her family went for a walk, and her 5-year-old daughter, Roxa, asked for something coveted by children for more than a century.

"She was just like, 'Mama, when this is over, can we go to the movies?'" recalled Page, 36, of Buffalo.

The coronavirus pandemic is forcing Americans to journey through hardship without some of the reliable comforts of hard times. One of them is the movies. For more than a century, movie theaters have been a refuge, a communal escape, a place for popcorn-chomping, dreaming-with-your-eyes-open transportation away from everything else.

A world without movie theaters, like the one we're temporarily inhabiting, has long been foretold. It's been predicted with every major technological advancement in media, and especially since the advent of streaming. Cinemas, so inconveniently located outside the home, are a dinosaur, analysts have said — one that's on its way out.

Now, we're getting a glimpse of life without movie theaters. Most see this as an opening for streaming services, hastening their expected takeover. But it has also brought a renewed appreciation for the pleasures of going to the movies and clarified their unique role in social life. Isolation has only illuminated the power of sitting together in the dark.

"It's one of those things you can't really appreciate something until it's taken away from you," says John Bell, president of the Tampa Theatre, a 1920s-era movie palace. "This has certainly accelerated a dystopian future look at what the landscape could look like. But I just innately believe that humans are social creatures and, ultimately, they will want to gather again. Streaming is great; it's convenient. But it's just not the same."

Nearly two months of shelter-in-place orders have forced some to hunker for the sticky floors of cinemas like never before. Sure, those people texting a few seats over were always a nuisance, and the films weren't always so great. But peruse social media lists of "What I'm going to do when this is over," and you will see countless cravings for the big screen and a tub of popcorn.

Being holed up at home has, for some, made the difference between streaming and moviegoing acute. Neither "Tiger King" nor the bite-sized "movies in chapters" of Quibi fill the loss of a night out at the movies. Gary Walker, 22, a film student at San Francisco State University, has been filling his time watching documentaries on Netflix and series on Disney Plus. But it doesn't do the trick.

"I can't wait to go back," says Walker. "I'm just a person who really likes the social experience of going to the movies, not sitting at home watching a movie by myself. Don't get me wrong — I like doing that, too. But it's really different sitting in a theater with other people."

Theaters nationwide have shuttered indefinitely due to the pandemic, leaving about a dozen still open. Most are drive-ins, which have seen a sudden resurgence after a decadeslong slide. Chains have furloughed or laid off employees, many of whom are part-time or hourly workers.

The shutdown will almost certainly lead to the permanent closure of some cinemas. Analysts say that AMC Entertainment, which presides over the nation's largest chain, is on the cusp of bankruptcy. To weather the storm, theater owners have sought federal aid through the coronavirus stimulus package.

The earliest most theaters are hoping to reopen is June. All major releases have been postponed until mid-July.

"The ability, when this is done, to go out and enjoy something entertaining and affordable with your family and friends is going to be hugely important to the cultural and psychological fabric of the country," says John Fithian, president of the National Organization of Theater Owners.

Moviegoing has been waning for two decades, a decline masked by higher ticket prices. Last year, domestic ticket sales amassed \$11.4 billion. That revenue is a big reason why all but a handful of the largest upcoming productions have postponed theatrical release rather than head to streaming. The big money is still at the box office.

No one expects, whenever theaters do reopen, that masses will stream through the doors. Distancing protocols could still be kept in place, at least at first. So long as there isn't a vaccine for COVID-19, some will be hesitant to attend crowded indoor events. In March, the analytics company EDO polled moviegoers and found 70% said they were likely to return to cinemas. Some 45% said they would wait a few weeks; 11% said they'd wait months.

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



Teen dramedy 'The Half of It' centers on platonic friendship

BY SONIA RAO ■ The Washington Post

For years, filmmaker Alice Wu bought into the notion that finding the perfect romantic partner is what makes life complete. The sentiment fuels the Victorian novels she grew up reading, just as it continues to thrive in modern culture. It wasn't until adulthood that she truly recognized, she says with a laugh, that even "after a wonderful wedding or marriage, it does seem like life goes on."

"I really started to think, maybe we have a narrow definition of what love is, or we fixate on a portion of it disproportionately," Wu expands. "What if you meet someone and it's the last person on Earth you think you'd have anything in common with, but you end up changing each other's lives?"

Her latest film, which received top honors from the Tribeca Film Festival, searches for that answer. "The Half of It" joins Netflix's ever-expanding empire of teen dramedies but, unlike many of its peers, it approaches romantic love as a secondary, plot-propelling force. A modern spin on "Cyrano de Bergerac," the film instead focuses on the friendship that grows between a studious high schooler in rural Washington state, Ellie Chu (Leah Lewis), and a kindhearted football player, Paul Munsky (Daniel Diemer), who needs her help writing love letters to a pretty new student.

Part of the reason that relationship stays platonic, as the film's trailer reveals, is because Ellie also has a crush on their new classmate, Aster Flores (Alexxis Lemire). "The Half of It" is Wu's second film to center on a Chinese American lesbian following her 2004 debut, "Saving Face." But that's where the similarities between the projects end, she says. Whereas the older film was a romantic comedy, the newer is a coming-of-age story. And while cultural heritage shapes the identities of Wu's characters, it doesn't define them.

"It's not something I consciously think about, I think it's just the way I tell stories," Wu says. "I'm a Chinese American lesbian, but I don't wake up in the morning and think, 'Here I am, Chinese. Here I am, gay,' and see the world in a gay way. I wake up in the morning and think, 'Do I have to get up? Do I have coffee?'"

"The subversive quality of my work is simply that I take characters and just make them people," she adds.

This approach extends to everyone in "The Half of It," whether that's Ellie, who plans to forgo a future at the distant Grinnell College to stay home with her widowed father (Collin Chou), or Paul, who aspires to spin off his family's sausage company with a new recipe. The unlikely pair spend time together at first only so Ellie can draft Paul's messages to Aster, but soon enough, they become

friends in earnest. Paul is quick to defend Ellie against the bullies who refer to her as "Chu Chu Train."

Wu chose an unlikely setting — a conservative, overwhelmingly Christian town — to highlight her belief that most people are fundamentally good and have the ability to grow and accept those who are unlike them. It's a mission driven by the anger she has experienced over racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination she feels have intensified in the past few years.

"There have always been conflicts," she says, "but ever since (President Donald) Trump got elected, everyone has retreated to different corners and everyone is pointing fingers. I am fundamentally not comfortable with conflict, but I am furious about what's happening."

Rather than spelling out her desire for people to look past themselves, Wu encourages viewers to do so by inspiring empathy for her characters through how they overcome their own differences. Aster's father is the minister of a local church where Paul also attends services, for instance, whereas Ellie doesn't believe in God. Aster and Ellie both excel at school, but Paul struggles to write meaningful sentences and instead opts for strings of emoji. They work to understand each other's perspectives.

High school can be a "profoundly lonely experience," Wu says. As Ellie's friendship with Paul develops, she begins to understand, in her words, "what it's like to finally meet someone your age who gets you."

Wu notes that she wouldn't be surprised if it's Asian lesbians who end up relating to the character of Paul, or conservative men who see themselves in Ellie. "For me, that is my subtle way of hoping that people start to see that we're more similar than different," she says. "Maybe it will open up our minds to being a little more generous with each other."



Netflix photos

Alice Wu delivers an updated twist on the Cyrano de Bergerac tale in her film "The Half of It." A teenage girl (Leah Lewis, far left) helps a popular jock (Daniel Ellie, left) write letters to his crush (Alexxis Lemire, top left).

# WEEKEND: BOOKS

# Books shore to please

With beaches closed, you can still enjoy these summer reads

By HILLEL ITALIE  
Associated Press

**M**ary Parker is a nurse from St. Louis so caught up in the beach novels of Elin Hilderbrand that she makes an annual trip to Nantucket, the Massachusetts island community where Hilderbrand sets her stories.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Parker isn't sure she'll make it to Nantucket this year or even find herself close to a beach. But she will continue to make the journey in her mind, through books by Hilderbrand and others.

"We don't have anything that compares to a place like Nantucket where I'm from," Parker said. "So writers like Elin Hilderbrand are all we have now if those are the kinds of places you dream of being. You just need that escape."

The coronavirus has already shut down most of the country's bookstores, led to the cancellation of the industry's annual national convention, BookExpo, and driven publishers to postpone many releases to the fall or next year. It now challenges another publishing and cultural tradition — beach reads. While beach reads can include any kind of light fiction, many of these romances, thrillers and family dramas are actually set on beaches and summer resorts from Nantucket to the South Carolina coast to Florida.

Government officials in New York and California already have warned that beaches are likely to be closed this summer and travel restricted. Such summer literary institutions as the book festival in Nantucket will be held online instead. And promotional tours for books will likely remain limited to virtual discussions.

Authors and booksellers contend, and hope, that you don't need a beach to read a beach book. Hilderbrand remembers a painful summer growing up when her father had died and the family's traditional summer outing was called off. Instead, she worked at a factory. "What I could have used that summer was a book to replace my summer beach vacation, something that would have let me escape," said Hilderbrand, whose bestsellers include "The Summer of '69" and "The Perfect Couple."

Author Mary Alice Monroe says readers tell her something similar. "They're hoping I can take them to a place they can't get to themselves," said Monroe, whose books include "The Summer Guests" and "Beach House for Rent." Beach reads are as carefully mined

as Christmas books, so new novels by Hilderbrand, Monroe, Nancy Thayer and others remain scheduled for May and June. Hilderbrand's "28 Summers," inspired in part by the film "Same Time, Next Year," traces a long-term affair that began in Nantucket in 1993. Monroe's "On Ocean Boulevard" continues her "Beach House" series set in South Carolina.

In Barbara Delinsky's "A Week at the Shore," a New Yorker confronts family issues during a visit to the Rhode Island beach house where she spent summers as a child. Nancy Thayer's "Girls of Summer," like Hilderbrand's new book, is set in Nantucket, while Mary Kay Andrews' "Hello, Summer" finds a journalist returning to Silver Bay, Fla., where her family runs local newspapers.

"This year, maybe the beach read will be on somebody's back porch or hammock or in the corner of an apartment of wherever they're sheltering at home," Andrews said. "What I hope to do is take them to the beach in their imagination."

Authors already are looking to the summer of 2021 and considering whether their next books will mention the pandemic.



Monroe says she is working on a story that will have her characters living through "this virus saga," and will bring back the Rutledge family of her "Beach House" series in the hope that readers "will connect with them." Hilderbrand worked in a reference to the virus shortly before completing "28 Summers," and says that while it won't be a major plot point in her upcoming work, she might find it "unavoidable to mention."

Other writers expect to avoid it, at least in the short term. Delinsky says she might refer to it in a book in a few years, when there's a better sense of perspective. Brooke Lea Foster has no need to include it. Her upcoming novel, "Summer Darlings," takes place on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in the 1960s. She's currently writing a story set in the Hamptons in the 1950s.

"I'm sure the books that come out of this moment will be incredible, but I like to go back and escape in time," Foster said.

# 'Temporary' puts a whole new spin on millennial woe

By REBEKAH FRUMKIN  
Special to The Washington Post



Temporary  
Hilary Leichter

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours," Thoreau writes in "Walden."

Under quarantine, Thoreau's words seem naive. There is no advancement, much less confidence. All we know now are stasis and uncertainty. COVID-19 is a tidal wave to the modest sand castle of millennial success: People who were just beginning to assemble their personal and professional lives into some semblance of livability are now trapped in an existential limbo. Many are without health insurance or income. Many are "essential workers" risking serious illness to keep buses running and grocery stores open. The once-beleaguered economic situation of millennials forced to string multiple jobs together has become even bleaker in the economic collapse caused by the pandemic. Everything — work, health, safety — has come to feel temporary.

Enter into this global cataclysm Hilary Leichter's "Temporary," a refreshingly whimsical debut that explores the agonies of millennial life under late capitalism with the kind of surrealist humor that will offer

anxious minds a reprieve from our calamitous news cycle. Leichter's nameless narrator is a temp given absurd assignments, including stints as a pirate, an assassin's assistant and a CEO (whose incorporeal form she later wears in a necklace around her neck). Being a temp is a tradition that runs in the temp's family: "We work," her mother, who has filled in for skyscrapers, the mayor of New York City and her own mother, tells the temp, "but then we leave." And even though the temp's contact at the temp agency — the smarmy, all-business Farren, whom Leichter draws with the excessive snark such a character deserves — speaks of the goal of "permanence," the temp seems to know that she's doomed to a life of miserable temporariness.

The novel is punctuated by a series of Genesis-like tracts describing the life of the "First Temporary," whom the gods created so they could "take a break." The idea that temping has existed since time immemorial — and that our world is obsessed with streamlining, productivity and corporate bureaucracy on a depressingly meta-physical level — is fitting for a book about the quashing of free will under capitalism. A lesser writer might have chosen to describe the temp's meandering as a path to her fulfillment, but Leichter smartly uses fantastical ideas (some of the best being

a witch whose hair "shines like a wave of charitable donations" and a haunted house whose doors must be opened and closed at odd intervals) to communicate the drudgery of professional impermanence.

Leichter's dry wit is masterful, but her novel suffers from the occasional tonal inconsistency. On the pirate ship, the temp is sexually assaulted: "He isn't the first man to miscalculate what a woman would or wouldn't do... with his hands under my skirt under the sails under the sky." Similarly, the temp wonders about learning the assassin's trade herself, making a hilarious pro/con list: "Under the pro column: learn the new skill of murdering. Under the con column: whoops, now you've murdered." The levity of the moment feels coarsed when her friend's throat is slit seven pages later. It seems as if Leichter wants to pair fairy-tale strangeness with real-world consequences, and the effect often feels more chaotic than appropriately eerie.

Still, as a book about the brutality of the work world, "Temporary" is a great success. Leichter has managed to blend the old and the existential into a tale of millennial woe that's both dreadful and hilarious at once. This book should be recommended reading for workers — and essential reading for nonessential workers — everywhere.

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

## NEW ON DVD

**“Birds of Prey”:** Tribune News Service film critic Katie Walsh says that the best thing to come out of 2016’s much-derided DC antihero team-up “Suicide Squad” was Margot Robbie’s inspired take on Harley Quinn, the self-proclaimed “Joker’s girl” and quirky chaos clown. Robbie’s Quinn, with her colorful pig-tails and baseball bat, instantly became an icon, a perennial Halloween costume, eclipsing even her lesser half, Jared Leto’s heavily tattooed Joker.

Now, writes Walsh, she’s better than ever with her own girl gang in the brilliant, breakneck “Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn.”

Director Cathy Yan soars with her stylish sophomore feature, which is colorful, campy and cheerfully brutal, a perfect reflection of Harley herself. Robbie, as usual, tears into the role with a wide-eyed gusto that is equally childlike and unhinged.

“Birds of Prey” is also the cinematic introduction to the other birds in the flock, the beloved comic characters Black Canary, styled as a butt-kicking blaxploitation queen, and Huntress, a mysterious yet neurotic assassin out for vengeance. Along with renegade cop Renee Montoya and precocious pickpocket Cassandra Cain, this is Harley’s new girl gang, who band together against the sinister Roman Sionis, aka Black Mask (Ewan McGregor).

**“Fantasy Island”:** The 1970s-’80s prime-time staple is reimagined as a horror movie. But Chicago Tribune film critic Michael Phillips says it’s mostly just horrible, with four intertwining fantasies and four stories’ worth of lame ideas that are poorly executed.

**“Shameless: Season 10”:** More dysfunctional fun with the Gallagher clan on Chicago’s South Side.

Also available on DVD: **“The Photograph”:** Issa Rae and LaKeith Stanfield take a good long look at love.

**“Lost Transmissions”:** A mental illness drama set in the Los Angeles music world. Stars Simon Pegg and John Tample.

**“Lucifer: The Complete Fourth Season”:** Lucifer Morningstar (Tom Ellis), the Devil, moves from Hell to Los Angeles where he owns a nightclub. Based on the DC Comics character.

**“Narcos: Mexico”:** This companion series to Netflix’s “Narcos” focuses on the drug trade in Mexico. This is season one; season two premiered on Netflix earlier this year.

**“Redcon-1”:** Special Forces soldiers fight zombies in Britain.

**“Stray Dolls”:** This crime thriller stars Olivia DeJonge and Cynthia Nixon.

**“The Traitor”:** The life of mob boss Tommaso Buscetta, who was one of the first to become a police informant.

**“Vivarium”:** A terrifying portrait of a young couple slowly unraveling under the crushing weight of social isolation.

— Tribune News Service



Disney Plus

Ashley Eckstein has been the voice of Ahsoka Tano for seven seasons on “Star Wars: The Clone Wars.”

# Out of the shadows

## Ahsoka Tano evolved into an icon throughout Clone Wars’ seven seasons

By DAVID BETANCOURT  
The Washington Post

**B**efore she became one of the most recognizable voices in the Star Wars universe, actress Ashley Eckstein was just a kid in Orlando with an orange shag carpet and a dream.

It was as a toddler that Eckstein, like many ’80s babies, discovered the original Star Wars trilogy through the power of VHS tapes. She recalls her mother not being too fond of the orange carpet, but to Eckstein, it was another world — Tatooine, to be exact: the dry planet with two suns that was the childhood home of Darth Vader.

Eckstein, while pretending to be lovable droid R2-D2, would imagine that the carpet was the sands of the desert world that gave us the galaxy’s greatest evil. She had no clue at the time that her vocal cords would one day help create someone who is becoming just as iconic. Ahsoka Tano is that icon.

Over the animated course of one film and seven seasons of “Star Wars: The Clone Wars,” Eckstein has been the voice, heart and soul of Ahsoka Tano, the onetime apprentice to future Darth Vader, Anakin Skywalker. Ahsoka fought alongside the all-time Jedi great when he was at his most heroic, during the Clone Wars, which take place between Episodes II and III of the Star Wars prequel saga — before his heartbreaking fall to the Dark Side.

The character has grown up and out of the shadow of her former Jedi Master. She is now the moral center of the story as “The Clone Wars,” which — after traveling from the initial movie version in theaters to a show on Cartoon Network, then Netflix and now Disney Plus — finally comes to an end.

Six years passed between the series’ sixth season on Netflix in 2014 and the final one

that began in February. But now that the final episode has begun streaming on Disney Plus, Eckstein is elated to see the tale come to a satisfying close.

“It’s definitely been an emotional journey for sure,” Eckstein told The Washington Post. “I’m so grateful that we were given the opportunity [for a final season] because not only does Ahsoka Tano deserve a proper ending in ‘The Clone Wars,’ but the fans deserve it. The fans started [the social media] hashtag #savetheclone wars and even when we gave up on it, the fans never gave up.”

The trailer for the final season of “The Clone Wars” ends with doors closing on Ahsoka as she wields two lightsabers in a defensive stance. In a universe that gives so much attention to the Skywalkers, the trailer felt like her graduation of sorts into the ranks of the Star Wars elite. That’s a long way from her arrival 12 years ago, which generated a fan response that was indifferent at times, as some thought the young Jedi was too childish or downright annoying.

“Even when she had her haters in the beginning, I asked them for their patience,” Eckstein said. “I asked them to just go on this journey with her and enjoy [it]. Because I was always at least a season ahead of what the fans were seeing and so I knew how far she had come just over the course of a single season. It’s been incredible to see the evolution [of their response].”

When George Lucas and Dave Filoni created the character for the initial 2008 film “The Clone Wars” and hired Eckstein to voice her, she felt as though she was given the piece to a puzzle that had long been hidden. It wasn’t until the film’s debut that it was revealed that Anakin Skywalker had an apprentice. She was just as shocked as fans were.

Previously, Eckstein had been seen on the Disney Channel’s “That’s So Raven”

and Nickelodeon’s “Drake and Josh.” What intrigued her the most about “The Clone Wars” was the chance to be a female Jedi with a leading role — and this was years before Daisy Ridley wielded a lightsaber in “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” in 2015. “That was a really big deal. And I wanted to do right by it,” Eckstein said. “I wanted to live up to the opportunity that was given to me and the expectations that were put on me.”

Another major character “The Clone Wars” can take credit for is Darth Maul, the extremely popular former Sith apprentice who seemingly died at the end of 1999’s “Star Wars: The Phantom Menace.” “The Clone Wars” revealed that Maul not only beat death, but was rebuilt into an even deadlier galactic adversary. He and Ahsoka had a highly anticipated lightsaber duel in this season’s 10th episode, titled “The Phantom Apprentice.”

“Ahsoka and Darth Maul have a lot of similarities,” Eckstein said. They both became outsiders: Maul was replaced as a Sith after his “death,” and Ahsoka walked away from the Jedi after being wrongly accused of a crime. “The meetup between the two of them isn’t necessarily what you would think. Their fight is truly, in my opinion, one of the most epic fights in all of Star Wars.”

Soon Eckstein will hand off the role to another actress, as it has been reported that Rosario Dawson will play a live-action version in the second season of “The Mandalorian” on Disney Plus. It’s a moment Eckstein says she’s ready for, whenever it happens.

“Ahsoka is bigger than just me. I’ve always known that there’s going to be more team members added to the bench,” Eckstein said. “That means that we’re going to get more Ahsoka stories. And I will always celebrate more Ahsoka stories.”

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

iStock

# Harmonious HEALTH

## Studies suggest that music may have a positive effect on the immune system

By JEREMY REYNOLDS  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**T**o boost your immune system, doctors recommend a healthy diet that embraces fruits and veggies and has no vitamin deficiencies. But how about a little Mozart?

Sound like quackery? It's not. Numerous studies, including a 2019 review in the journal *Annual Research & Review in Biology*, have found that both performing and listening to music can have a significant impact on the immune system. And as COVID-19 fosters global tension and fear, everyone is looking for ways to mitigate that stress and boost the immune system to ward off viral infections.

"Certainly music has an impact on the brain, and anxiety and stress impact the immune system," said Andrew Levin, a neurologist at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Levin, an amateur trumpet player who performs with several local ensembles, said he's not an expert in the ways music interacts with the brain. But it works for him.

"Music is a part of my stress release paradigm," he said, adding that he hasn't had much time lately to play. "We know that music can affect brain states, so I don't believe it is much of a stretch to say that music can indirectly affect our physiology, and there is research that supports this notion."

According to a 2013 review in the journal *Brain Behavior and Immunity*, the emotional and psychological effects of listening to music have a direct impact on biomarkers and hormone levels. Immunoglobulin A, which plays a crucial role in immune functions, was cited as being "particularly responsive to music." There is also general consensus among researchers that listening to music reduces cortisol levels, with one 2007 study in the *Journal of Music Therapy* by A.J. Ferrer stating that music can be "as effective as diazepam" in

reducing vital signs of anxiety.

So, does it matter what sort of music you're listening to?

It does, but only whether you like the song. Prior associations and relationships with different types of music affect how your body responds. In general, research indicates that "relaxing music" (i.e. slower tempo, peaceful music) is better for calming frayed nerves, decreasing blood pressure and respiration and settling the heart rate.

Curiously, while major music streaming companies including Spotify and Bandcamp report dips in usage during the pandemic, classical music streaming has seen a bump, along with folk and children's music.

A report by the classical music streaming service Primephonic states that listeners' habits have shifted away from early morning and evening listening to business hours.

Listening during lunch hour has doubled, and countries that have been shut down the longest due to COVID-19 have seen up to a 50% increase in listening time.

"This music provides hope," Primephonic CEO Thomas Steffens said in a phone call from the Netherlands.

He also said the rate of increase for new subscriptions is much higher than it was a month ago, even though Primephonic is marketing less.

"The increase is a mixture of people who already like classical listening more and new listeners trying out the genre, like how many people are now trying new recipes," Steffens said.

Idagio, another classical music streaming service, also reports increased usage. Orchestras and opera houses around the country are streaming video performances and drawing millions of viewers. On Easter, Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli sang a selection of hymns in an empty cathedral in Milan. By the next

evening, the performance had garnered more than 30 million views on YouTube.

Noah Potvin, a professor of music therapy at Duquesne University, said classical music's cultural associations include relaxation and refinement and a certain health image, and this is likely driving listeners to the genre.

"Think of any Lexus or Mercedes commercial with soaring classical melodies," he said. "That sense of security and peace is attractive right now."

Potvin is skeptical of some of the research linking music with the immune system, questioning whether it's healthy to use music or any other tool to suppress anxiety.

"The research is superficial, though I don't mean that in a pejorative way," he said. "I think the information we have is valuable, but we need to go deeper."

Music therapists use music to treat acute anxiety and stress, but Potvin said a more valuable use is exploring how music can help listeners work through anxiety and stress instead of simply covering over those sensations, which can be counterproductive. Using music for progressive muscle relaxation is a common technique at the moment, he said.

Listening to music is not a cure-all. It's another example of the much-discussed "mind-body connection" that has so captured the public consciousness in recent years, which deals with how emotional and mental health have physical outcomes.

"I'm a skeptic by nature, so when I first heard of the mind-body connection I thought it was new-age woo-woo," Levin said. "However, the more I learned about human physiology, and in particular neuropsychology and neurology, I became increasingly convinced that we actually underestimate how profound this connection is."

## WEEKEND: FAMILY



SHELLY SOLOMON/AP

Steve Turner and his sisters, Carla Paul and Lisa Fishman, hold up a Mother's Day banner emblazoned with images of their mom, Beverly Turner, in front of her assisted living facility May 3 in Ladue, Mo. They were demonstrating how their Mother's Day surprise will look on Sunday as their mother peers down from a window.

# Showing love from afar

## Families finding creative ways to celebrate Mom

BY LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

**T**hearts made and delivered by neighbors. Fresh garden plantings dug from a safe 6 feet away. Trips around the world set up room-to-room at home. Mother's Day this year is a mix of love and extra imagination as families do without their usual brunches and huggy meet-ups.

As the pandemic persists in keeping families indoors or a safe social distance apart, online searches have increased for creative ways to still make moms feel special.

Absent help from schools and babysitters, uninitiated dads are on homemade craft duty with the kids. Other loved ones are navigating around no-visitor rules at hospitals and senior-living facilities.

Some medical facilities are pitching in by collecting voice and video recordings from locked-out relatives when patients are unable to manage the technology on their own.

In suburban St. Louis, Steve Turner and his family hope to Face-Time with his 96-year-old mother, Beverly, but they plan something more, too. Her birthday coincides with Mother's Day this year.

"We're going to create a big Mother's Day-birthday banner signed by the kids and grandkids who live here," Turner said. "She loves butterflies and we'll draw one on. We're working with the home to find a place where we can stand outside a window so she can see us."

Anna Francese Gass in New Canaan, Conn., is bunkered down with her husband and three children and will enjoy her usual Mother's Day breakfast in bed of rubbery eggs, slightly burnt toast and VERY milky coffee. But the day won't include her own mom, who lives nearby.

"I ordered a bunch of daffodil and tulip bulbs online, and me and the kids are planning to plant them in her flowerbed. She can supervise from the window. I just know it will

put a huge smile on her face," Francese Gass said.

In Alameda, Calif., 23-year-old Zaria Zinn is sheltering at home with her parents and younger sister. Knowing how much their mother loves and misses traveling, they're turning their house and neighborhood into a trip around the world with help from decorations and virtual tours online.

"We made a DIY passport for her and we're creating stamps for each location," she said.

Their itinerary: Machu Picchu, Paris and Iceland, with some DIY spa time and a Hollywood-style movie night.

Making the most of Mother's Day in isolation is top of mind for Google search users. The company said the term "Mother's Day gifts during quarantine" recently spiked by 600% in the U.S. Among Pinterest's 335 million users, searches for "Mother's Day at home" have jumped by 2,971%, the company said.

In Rochester, N.Y., Melissa Mueller-Douglas and her 7-year-old daughter, Nurah, had planned to get together with mom and daughter friends at a hotel for a Mother's Day sleepover. When it was canceled because of the pandemic, they got busy on Pinterest searching for ideas to bring the party home, just the two of them.

They have eye masks with rhinestones to decorate, thread for mother-daughter bracelets, instant film for a photo shoot and a chocolate fountain purchased at Walmart. Dad and Nurah's 3-year-old brother will paint together downstairs after a mom-son bike ride earlier in the day.

"We've repurposed a shimmery tablecloth and made giant flowers out of tissue paper for a photo shoot backdrop. We'll be creating a secret handshake and writing in top secret journals to each other," Mueller-Douglas said. "We're calling it The Best Day Ever Slumber Party."

Kayla Hockman, 26, in Los Angeles has been worried about her

77-year-old grandmother in Fontana, Calif., about 50 miles away. Usually, she and her sister treat her and their mom to brunch or an adventure out.

"My grandma's been quite depressed lately since she hasn't left her house in two months, and she's slowly losing hope," Hockman said. "She and my grandpa have a lot of problems with walking now. This whole thing of not being able to see anyone has been really taking a hard toll on them."

To cheer her up, they're planning a party on her lawn.

"It's going to be a surprise pop-up Mother's Day brunch with 'mommas' and painting," Hockman said. "We're going to set it up for all of us to paint a sunflower, her absolute favorite. She'll paint on her porch and we'll be on the lawn, all 6 feet apart."

Willie Greer in Memphis thought food, enlisting the help of a neighbor to make his mom's recipe for pecan pie and deliver it to her in Dallas to brighten her isolation Mother's Day. He said the neighbor was happy to do it after he sent her the recipe.

"My siblings and I will also create a 'thank you' video for mom. Since we can't all be together, each of us will record a short message and at the end we'll all sing 'A Mother's Love' by Gena Hill," he said. "I'm pretty sure this is the part where my mom cries her eyes out."

These days, virtual experiences are all we have, so Lisa Hill in Portland, Ore., decided to embrace that notion for her 79-year-old mom in Stuart, Fla., after she met a cooking instructor while volunteering to prepare meals at a shelter.

Hill has been cooking alongside Lauren Chandler, who has taken her usual in-home cooking sessions online with a twist: She's throwing in a free 45-minute session for clients to donate.

"I feel so far away from her. I can't cook for her. I can't visit," Hill said. "She's nervous about everything going on right now and it will be a good social interaction."

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Even garden-variety milspouses inspire

**I**'ve always been a bit of a loner. This may seem to contradict my image as class clown, columnist and book author — but it's true nonetheless, and it has affected me as a military spouse.

I've always taken longer than most to make friends. As a young child, I often played alone. As a teen, I had goofy girlfriends, but lots of insecurities, too. Humor became my cover.

Whatever the reason, loner became my natural default mode. Our mobile military lifestyle added a social challenge. When our family moved, I had to muster the courage to put myself out there, and face possible rejection. No matter how old I was, I relived middle school every time we moved. "Will they like me? Will they think I'm funny? Will I be included?" I wondered into my late 40s.

Becoming a writer made matters worse, because it was necessary for me to write, alone, for hours at a time. When we lived on base, spouses assumed that I was standoffish because I wasn't out on the shared patio or around the fire pit with everyone else. In reality, I was just trying to be successful as a writer, but I felt inadequate in military spouse social circles nevertheless.

About five years ago, I was asked to appear on a podcast called "One Bad Mother." The show was hosted by two hilarious, irreverent young moms, Biz and Theresa, who spent each episode ranting about their parenting foibles. They had found my blog online, and offered to interview me during their "Let's Call a Mom" segment. I had assumed that they wanted me to joke about my own mothering mishaps, of which I had many.

However, Biz opened the segment, "I might actually get a little witty with today's guest," cuz she one of those people who just seem to kick (expletive delete) it. "I always talk on the show about, like, 'no one's all that special no matter what their circumstances are'.... But occasionally, you're like, 'well, that's really inspiring' [laughs]. So today we're calling Lisa Smith Molinari..."

"Inspiring?" I thought after I listened to the full recording later. I hadn't realized that I was supposed to be inspiring. I felt like a fraud.

But, I was seeing things from the perspective of a spouse who was fully entrenched in military culture. At that time, I had lived in concentrated military communities for 24 years. As a military spouse, I was nobody special. My Navy intel husband didn't deploy as much as aviators, surface warfare or infantry. We had moved quite a bit, but I knew military families who'd had it worse. I hadn't done anything to merit accolades of praise, swarms of sympathy or chants of disapproval.

I was simply a garden-variety military spouse — albeit a bit of a loner — who wrote a funny blog. That's it. But to the civilian moms who were hosting the show, I was somehow "an inspiration," for the simple fact that I did what they did — raise children and run a household — within the unique parameters of military life.

Biz and Theresa asked me what it was like to be a military spouse, why I started writing and how I coped with motherhood stress under military circumstances. I thought my answers, like me, were garden-variety, but Biz said, "You said several things that, like, made my mind explode." In their irreverent, humorous style, the hosts explained that hearing from a military mom handling their vast responsibilities was uniquely challenging, coping with long absences, frequent moves, employment disadvantages and constant uncertainty — was truly impressive.

"I mean, Stephan leaves for a week, and I'm like, pissed," Biz said, laughing at herself.

I learned that military spouses do not have to be extraordinary to be inspiring. That they handle their everyday responsibilities under uniquely challenging circumstances makes them deserving of honor and respect.

To nearly one million active duty and reserve military spouses serving at home and abroad, I wish you all — from the extraordinary to the garden variety — a happy and well-deserved Military Spouse Appreciation Day!

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com)

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### TURN, TURN, TURN BY ROYCE FERGUSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Royce Ferguson, 34, is an American living in London, currently between jobs. He says one perk of residing in Europe is that the international edition of The New York Times prints both the Saturday and Sunday puzzles on Saturday, "enabling a regular Saturday crossword binge." He got the idea for this puzzle while on holiday in Switzerland, a nation known for its 47-Acrosses. This is Royce's crossword debut. — W.S.

- 1** 1969 hit for Neil Diamond
- 5** Statement that may precede "Wish me luck!"
- 9** Former Saudi king
- 11** Alan who directed "All the President's Men"
- 13** Any nonzero number raised to the power of zero
- 15** Florida county named for a president
- 17** Los Angeles's \_\_\_\_\_ College of Art and Design
- 19** Where talk is cheap?
- 21** Thin Sp.
- 23** Way to run someone out of town, idiomatically
- 25** Heavy defeat
- 27** QB-protecting group, for short
- 29** Cousin of cream cheese
- 31** Not outstanding
- 33** Aware
- 35** German city on the Weser
- 37** Try to see if anyone is home, maybe
- 39** Adversary
- 41** Island famous for its nightlife
- 43** Was livid
- 45** Slowly disappear
- 47** Orgs. running drives for school supplies
- 49** Little piggy
- 51** Sullivan who taught Helen Keller
- 53** 43mp
- 55** Enlist again
- 57** Early king of Athens, in Greek myth
- 59** Magical rides
- 61** No longer working: Abbr.
- 63** Sedate state
- 65** State
- 67** Gerontologist's study
- 69** The driving force behind this puzzle?
- 71** Cheerfulness: Var.
- 73** Nonbinary pronoun
- 75** A dip, or a series of steps
- 77** Spanish girlfriend
- 79** Things once tossed in the Trevi Fountain
- 81** It stops at Union and Penn Stations
- 83** Understand
- 85** Agnus \_\_\_\_\_ (prayers)
- 87** Banned aid?
- 89** Lead-in to Aid
- 91** "Auld Lang \_\_\_\_\_"
- 93** Gambler's alternative to Las Vegas, NV, or Atlantic City, NJ
- 95** One with special L.T. privileges
- 97** Throwing away
- 99** Latin version of the Bible
- 101** Doesn't give a hoot, colloquially
- 103** Applebee's competitor
- 105** Kitchen gadgets
- 107** System of government
- 109** \_\_\_\_\_ dog
- 111** Loading areas
- 113** Championship
- 115** Texas A&M athlete
- 117** Lugs
- 119** Add oil and vinegar to, say
- 121** Bit of chemistry
- 123** Legal cover?
- 125** Plugging away
- 127** Testing stage
- 129** Ratchet (up)
- 131** Command to a dog
- 133** 110 Buckeyes' sch.
- 135** 58
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## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

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## FACES

# A warts-and-all approach

'Never Have I Ever' gives mothers the dimension they rarely receive on TV

By SONIA RAO  
The Washington Post

**R**oughly halfway into the Netflix series "Never Have I Ever," 15-year-old Devi Vishwakumar's mother, Nalini, drags her to her high school on a weekend morning for Ganesh Puja, a traditional ceremony honoring the Hindu god. Normally inhabited by hormonal teenagers, the hallways are instead filled with members of a local Hindu society dressed in silk saris and kurtas. Floral garlands wrap around the doorways.

Actress Poorna Jagannathan, who plays Nalini, recalls the "special feeling" of shooting the episode.

"We're in Hollywood! It's Netflix!" she says. "And it's all brown people."

"Never Have I Ever," created by Mindy Kaling and Lang Fisher, isn't the first of Kaling's comedies to feature an Indian American lead character. But it is the first to center on an Indian American family, a rarity across genres. Whereas immigrant parents can sometimes be reduced to stereotypes on screen, Nalini — as well as Devi's late father, Mohan, who appears in flashbacks — are depicted with unrelenting honesty.

This warts-and-all approach means that the dynamic between Devi (Maitreyi Ramakrishnan) and Nalini, a vital component of the coming-of-age story, can get quite fraught. The headstrong women lash out at each other, their anger thinly veiling the immense grief of losing Mohan (Senthil Ramamurthy). Devi at times feels suffocated by Nalini's parenting, but the show makes sure to shed light on both sides.

"The story of immigrants is told by their first-generation kids," Jagannathan says. "Those are the people with agency, so they're the center of their own story. The perspective is (often) only of the kids going through life, and the parents are presented as obstacles to get to what they want to do. The moms sometimes feel like caricatures, only wanting their kids to get married, or being a little subversive."

Jagannathan hasn't taken on many roles



Poorna Jagannathan plays Nalini Vishwakumar in "Never Have I Ever."

like Nalini; American audiences might remember her as Nicole Kidman's lawyer in the second season of "Big Little Lies," or as Riz Ahmed's mother in "The Night Of." An immigrant herself, she worried after learning "Never Have I Ever" is a young-adult series that Nalini's story line would be akin to a "Disney version of immigration." Kaling and Fisher assured her otherwise.

"As an actor, a lot of times you sign on blind," Jagannathan says. "You sign on (with) trust, and it's tricky because you don't really have any scripts. You really don't know what your character arc is going to be. I definitely just trusted Mindy and Lang would do the character justice."

Even when Devi is upset with Nalini — whether because of the teenager's rejection of her heritage, or a feeling that she's burdening her now-single mother — "Never Have I Ever" finds a way to empathize with the character. Viewers feel for Nalini when she insists on attending the puja for the sense of community, only to be

put down by the pitying glances of those who let Mohan's death define her.

The mother-daughter dynamic came naturally to the actresses, according to Jagannathan, who was present during Ramakrishnan's second audition. Jagannathan likens the cast's chemistry to the thousand-piece puzzles she has been working on during quarantine. It's difficult to distinguish pieces among all the others at first, but once you find the right one and place it where it belongs, she says, it feels effortless.

Jagannathan was initially drawn to the project by Kaling's established sense of humor, which the actress says is "built on top of very delicate experiences."

"There's something about how she experiences life and spits it out," she adds.

Jagannathan also filters her life through an irreverent sense of humor, she says, which she drew from while portraying Nalini. The character's side-eyeing and sassy comebacks are reminiscent of Jagannathan's own Indian aunts.

## Cruise working with NASA to create film at Space Station

Like "Mission: Impossible," but without gravity. Or, no, no, like "Top Gun," but with rockets instead.

Whatever the conversations in the writing room, it seems like Tom Cruise is in talks to take his action skills to the new frontier: Space. And not in the CGI sense.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine tweeted Tuesday that Cruise and NASA will be working on a film aboard the International Space Station.

"We need popular media to inspire a new generation of engineers and scientists to make NASA's ambitious plans a reality," Bridenstine tweeted.

Last year, NASA said it was hoping to open the ISS to private astronauts — at a cost of about \$35,000 per day — with the hopes of allowing commercial businesses access to parts of the station to make, market and promote products, train private astronauts and even use ISS resources for commercial activities, a dramatic change from its prior stance of limiting commercial activity on the station to only science experiments.

The shift is part of the long-term plan for the ISS. NASA plans to cede control of the station over to commercial companies sometime in the 2020s.

## Tribeca drive-in series has films, sports and music

Tribeca Enterprises, IMAX and AT&T said Wednesday that they are partnering to launch "Tribeca Drive-In," a summer programming series of new and classic films, music and sporting events. It'll take place in drive-in theaters and "other exclusive venues" nationwide starting on June 25. The lineup will be announced in the coming weeks.

The organization said that they will work with local vendors to support small businesses and tailor the experience to each community.

Tribeca co-founder Robert De Niro said they were excited to give people "something to look forward to this summer and reinvent a classic moviegoing experience for communities to enjoy together safely."

The majority of cinemas across the country have been closed due to the coronavirus pandemic since mid-March.

Many drive-in theaters, however, have remained open, since they are naturally suited to social distancing.

## CBS renews 23 shows for 2020-21 television season

TV viewers craving familiarity will find it on CBS, which is renewing nearly two dozen series including newcomers "The Unicorn" and "All Rise" and stalwarts "Blue Bloods" and "The Amazing Race."

CBS said Wednesday that 23 returning shows will be part of the network's lineup for the 2020-21 season, along with new series to be unveiled in the coming weeks.

Also returning are "Young Sheldon," "Bob Hearts Abishola" and "Evil."

## Other news

■ Lady Gaga's highly anticipated album finally has a release date after the coronavirus crisis put it on ice last month. On Wednesday, the "Stupid Love" singer announced that "Chromatica" will drop on May 29, more than a month after its original April 10 release date.

Compiled from wire services

## Chou shares some magic in Netflix show 'J-Style Trip'

By JUVON PARK  
Associated Press

Manpop superstar Jay Chou is bringing a little magic into viewers' lives with his Netflix show "J-Style Trip."

Part travelogue, part magic performance, the show has Chou diving into adventures around the world with his A-list friends.

"Magic is actually like music. It is a universal language," Chou told The Associated Press in Taiwan recently.

Chou and his friends take their magic tricks everywhere — from Pompidou in Paris to a local food court in Singapore — taking hundreds of viewers on virtual trips amid pandemic shutdowns.

"I wanted to show the warmth and friendliness of people around the world, and how people connect with each other in different ways," Chou said.

Each episode features a special guest like Taiwanese singer Jan Hsiao, Singaporean singer Wayne Lim Junjie, better known as JJ Lin, and classical pianist Lang Lang. Chou's especially excited about Lang Lang's upcoming appearance. "Lang



Manpop star Jay Chou travels the world with celebrity friends, taking magic tricks everywhere from Paris to Singapore, in the Netflix show "J-Style Trip."

Lang, in fact, is a very humorous and really fun person," Chou said of the classical superstar who has a whopping 15 million followers on his social media.

He couldn't resist giving a sneak peek, revealing that Lang Lang will show up in

hip-hop attire and fake mustache to surprise people.

Meanwhile, the singer-songwriter has another surprise in store for his fans.

"I haven't released any albums for a very long time. That's because I have been spending more time with my family," said Chou, who got married in 2015 and has two children.

Chou recently updated his Instagram with a picture of a piano painting by German artist Albert Oehlen.

"I've started producing," the caption said, with a piano emoji. Chou confirmed that he's working on new songs. "I know my fans are excited. Seems like everyone's been waiting for a long time," Chou said.

"Many people think my past songs are great and can't be surpassed," Chou said. He thinks his songs, albeit similar in some ways, cannot be compared because people project their own "memories" to each track.

With more than 10 albums, Chou, who describes himself as a "workaholic," is still leveling up.

"I always feel like only I can outperform myself!" he said.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Mental health key for troops and families in Japan

By SETH ROBSON  
AND CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

**YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan** — For most military personnel under restriction in Japan, the battle against the coronavirus is mental rather than physical.

Military officials have reported “fewer than 30” service members at Yokosuka Naval Base and a few more at other facilities testing positive for the virus out of 50,000 service members stationed here. Defense Secretary Mark Esper in March ordered the military to stop reporting new coronavirus cases at specific installations.

All military bases in Japan have been under restriction since U.S. Forces Japan commander LT Gen. Kevin Schneider last month declared a public health emergency through May 15.

Most service members, their families and civilian employees attached to these bases have adjusted to restricted movements, wearing face masks and coping with limited dining and recreational opportunities. It remains unclear how much of an impact all of this is having on troops’ mental health, but there are signs that leaders are concerned.

Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo in Kanagawa prefecture, has been under a shelter-in-place order since March 27 after three coronavirus cases were reported on base within 24 hours. Those restrictions are arguably the toughest the U.S. military endures in Japan.

Meanwhile, sailors attached to the Yokosuka-based aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its strike group started a phased sequestration three weeks ago to screen out possible cases before going to sea.

To help boost morale, chaplains are engaging with sailors daily, providing book recommendations and workout-of-the-day programs that “you can do while you’re in sequester,” the Reagan’s commanding officer, Capt. Pat Hanfinn, told Stars and Stripes in an April 24 joint interview with Task Force 70 commander Rear Adm. George Wikoﬀ.

“There are opportunities for self-betterment there,” Hanfinn said. “We are finding that they are interested in and are engaging with that.”

But for Petty Officer 3rd Class Ethan Hisequardo, an interior communications electrician assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh, exercise isn’t enough to keep up his morale during the restriction.

“It’s a struggle. Every day I try to work out, but it’s a quick high and then I’m down again,” he said Monday while buying essentials at the Navy Exchange, one of the only activities outside the home allowed under the shelter-in-place order. “I feel like I’m in a rich prison.”

Many sailors are idle at home several days at a stretch under a reduced manning schedule, Hisequardo added.

“I’m not depressed, but I drink



TAYLOR CURRY/U.S. Navy

A sailor directs a vehicle to a coronavirus screening station at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on April 10.



GABRIELLE SPALDING/U.S. Air Force

Airmen with the Pacific Air Forces postal squadron process mail at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on April 17.

a lot more to try to put myself to sleep,” he said. “You can only watch so much Netflix.”

An upcoming deployment, likely without port visits, promises little hope of coming relief, Hisequardo said. The Shiloh is part of Task Force 70.

“It’s going to be another quarantine,” he said.

Sailors have access to the mental health programs offered by the Navy, such as counseling services and those available through Military OneSource, a website that offers information and links to sites with support for service members and their families, Wikoﬀ said.

“The total wellness of our sailors is front and center, and not lost on any of us is how important it is to keep our sailors engaged and maintain that ability for them to get the help that they require across the health system as we manage this,” he said.

Sailors are resilient and understand sacrifice for the greater good, Wikoﬀ added.

“They know what’s important, and they know what they have to do,” he said.

None of the more than 11,000 people who live and work at Yokota Air Base, the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, have contracted the coronavirus

despite the base’s location at the epicenter of the pandemic in Japan.

As of Wednesday, more than 4,700 people had tested positive in Tokyo with 160 deaths, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

An undisclosed number of sailors the Navy sequestered at Yokota last month tested positive for the coronavirus, but they were isolated from the local military community, according to officials.

On April 6, 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Otis Jones declared a public health emergency for Yokota, which restricted anyone with base access to their homes, on base or off, their workplaces and essential services only on base or in the surrounding area. That emergency was extended Tuesday to last through June 30.

Official concern about the impact of those restrictions on mental health became evident April 8, when the Yokota medical group started a near daily series of posts on the base Facebook page, “How to Manage Anxiety during COVID-19,” referring to the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is

stressful on many levels and anxiety can affect everyone differently,” the first post stated. It warned that “sensationalized information about the coronavirus may not always tell the whole story.”

A subsequent tip advised against worrying about things beyond a person’s control.

“I CANNOT control that the coronavirus is here,” the medical group’s post stated. “I CAN practice physical distancing, avoid social gatherings and sanitize my hands regularly.”

Christine Minard, 29, a teacher at Yokota West Elementary School, said that she incorporates the tips into fitness classes she’s been running for people at Yokota online in recent weeks.

Since the school closed, Minard has also been doing online classes with her students and looking after her kids at home.

Minard was working out Friday at Yokota’s Samurai Field while sons Brady, 6, and Jamieson, 5, played nearby.

“It’s not as bad as it could be,” she said. “The more we follow the guidelines the sooner we can get out.”

The family is eager to go camping again at Tama Hills, the Air Force recreation area that’s a 40 minute-drive from Yokota, she

said. It was closed last month as part of the restrictions.

Fishing on nearby trails or swimming and fishing in local rivers popular with their Japanese neighbors are also off-limits to civilians and service members affiliated with Yokota.

“My family are outdoorsy, and we like to go fishing and camping but they don’t allow it,” Minard said.

Officials with the 374th Airlift Wing declined to provide an interview with an Air Force psychologist last week and didn’t directly answer a question about the possible medium- to long-term impacts of coronavirus restrictions on service members’ mental health.

Instead, the public affairs office provided answers from a family advocacy officer with the 374th Medical Group who is director of psychological health for Yokota to emailed questions from Stars and Stripes.

“Undoubtedly, this is a difficult time for all of us, and individuals who notice that their symptoms are failing to improve or worsening over time are encouraged to reach out and use the services available to them,” Maj. Bryan Vralsted said in emailed comments Friday.

Some of those services are catalogued on the Military OneSource website. Available programs include the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program and the Military and Family Life Counseling Program, he said. Chaplains are also available for counseling.

Programs for mental health and family advocacy are also available by telephone. Face-to-face services are available on a limited, case-by-case basis, Vralsted said.

The Yokota medical group has not seen a notable increase in the number of people asking for those services due to the coronavirus, however, according to the email attributed to him.

Yokota personnel still have access to the base exchange, commissary, gym and takeout or delivery food services, Vralsted noted.

“The beneficial impact of these small semblances of normal life should not be underestimated,” he said.

Being stuck at home with their families is impacting people in different ways, Vralsted said.

Increasing personal communication and quality time with family is healthy. Increasing alcohol use and screen-time activities such as video games or television is not good for mental health, he said.

“Some families are using this time to connect meaningfully in a beneficial manner,” according to the statement attributed to Vralsted. “While others are learning that they may have some work to do on communication or spending quality time together.”

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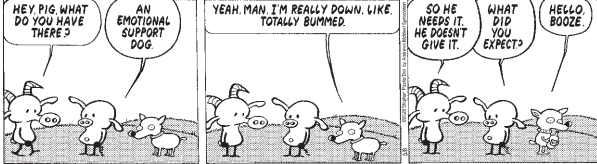
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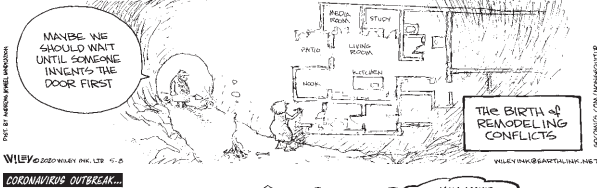
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



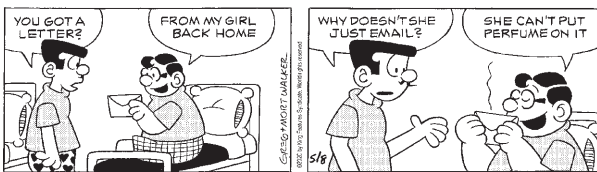
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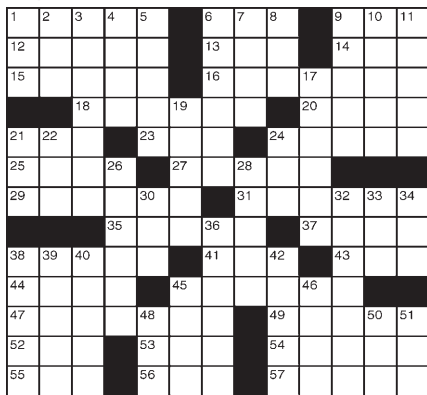
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

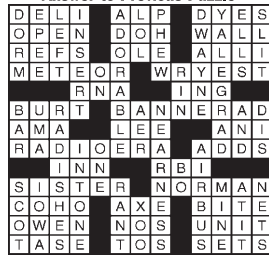
- 1 Uses a phone
- 6 Trio after Q
- 9 Nile viper
- 12 Popular typeface
- 13 Here, to Henri
- 14 Half of XIV
- 15 "Spanglish" star Tea
- 16 Christen
- 18 Talk on and on
- 20 Power co. supply
- 21 Omega predecessor
- 23 Tofu source
- 24 Rental contract
- 25 Fixed look
- 27 Bowling lane button
- 29 Act parts
- 31 Casual top
- 35 Suspect's excuse
- 37 Jazz singer James
- 38 Nontalkers
- 41 Moreover
- 43 Poetic dusk
- 44 Indy event
- 45 Honor
- 47 Work with
- 49 Ecstasy
- 52 Peak (Abbr.)
- 53 Hosp. workers
- 54 Barber's tool
- 55 Entreat
- 56 Granola morsel

- 57 Amazon's virtual assistant

### DOWN

- 1 Nev. neighbor
- 2 Exist
- 3 Treat as a celebrity
- 4 Actress Turner
- 5 Narrow cuts
- 6 Steak cut
- 7 "Lion King" villain offering
- 9 St. Teresa's city
- 10 Small, medium and large, e.g.
- 11 Fragment
- 17 Acquire canines
- 19 Upper body sculptures
- 21 Film ratings
- 22 Pouch
- 24 French article
- 26 Nail polish
- 28 Service period
- 30 Goller Ernie
- 32 Fill out
- 34 Schedule A
- 33 Way to go (Abbr.)
- 34 Light brown
- 36 Most despicable
- 38 Cookie morsel
- 39 Coffee bar
- 40 Getting 100 on
- 42 Messing on TV
- 45 Pound of verse
- 46 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 48 Altar affirmative
- 50 Boston team, for short
- 51 Madrid Mrs.

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 5-8

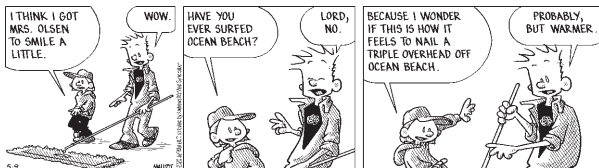
### CRYPTOQUIP

MGZ INIMZTQ IBMHQ MQPZC  
MH QZIAPWMPBIAAL MGQIWG  
GPNWZAR IEHTM, ETM GZ  
RAIPAZC NPWZQIEAL.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** BOARD GAME MANUFACTURER WHO WAS ALWAYS DOING THINGS IN AN UNSATISFACTORY WAY; MILTON BADLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U

Frazz



Dilbert



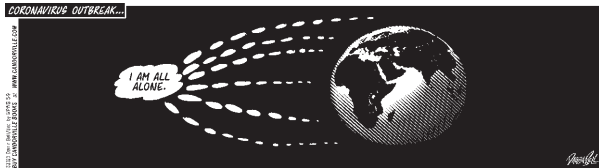
Pearls Before Swine



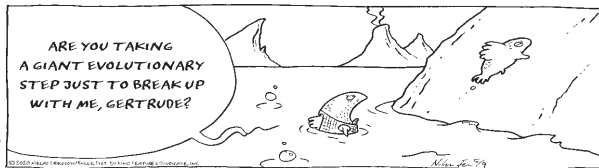
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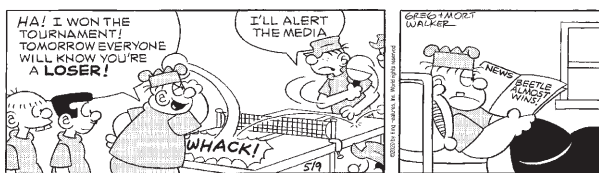
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Carpe Diem



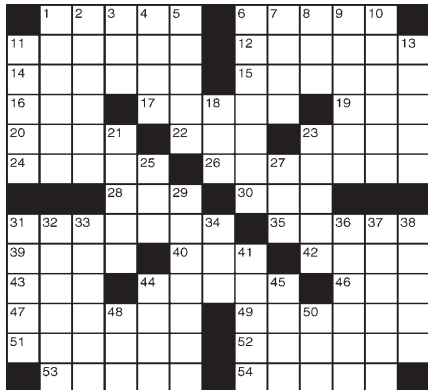
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Santa —
- 6 Actor Leto
- 11 Strong-arm
- 12 Tolerated
- 14 "Strange Interlude" playwright Eugene
- 15 Criminal's "why"
- 16 Schedule abbr.
- 17 Big name in direct selling
- 19 Bracketed word
- 20 Not single-sex
- 22 Sushi fish
- 23 Attend
- 24 Monster slain by Hercules
- 26 "All in the Family" star Carroll
- 28 Actress Hagen
- 30 Coach Parseghian
- 31 Radar of "M\*A\*S\*H"
- 35 Intent look
- 39 Conked out
- 40 Designer Claiborne
- 42 Mailbox feature
- 43 Sluggish Met
- 44 Mob bosses
- 46 Oom —
- 47 Prayer beads
- 49 "Shark Tank" shark Kevin

- 51 Evening party
- 52 Mime Marceau
- 53 Poked with the patella
- 54 Valuable violin
- 18 One of the five W's
- 21 Celtic priest
- 23 Pesky insects
- 25 The Braves, on scoreboards
- 27 Hosp. areas
- 29 Soothed
- 31 Aromas
- 32 Shot again, as a photo
- 33 Dines at home
- 34 Shrill bark
- 36 Wool provider
- 37 Bellowed
- 38 — alcohol
- 41 Whizzes (by)
- 44 Manitoba tribe
- 45 Venetian
- blind part
- 48 "Right you —!"
- 50 Blunder

### DOWN

- 1 "The Prince of Tides" author Pat
- 2 Ogled
- 3 Onassis nickname
- 4 Bruins' sch.
- 5 Alabama city
- 6 Rum exporter
- 7 "— Named Sue"
- 8 Dye brand
- 9 Prolific inventor
- 10 Danny of "Taxi"
- 11 Team leader
- 13 Interior design

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



5-9

### CRYPTOQUIP

QXS TCSDBOSLQ QECLSO ONGL

QXS ABZZ GBQX LN ONEAQ

GXVQDNSWSC. BQ GVD V

WSQN NR INLRBOSLIS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE AMATEUR ACTOR TRIED TO REALISTICALLY THRASH HIMSELF ABOUT, BUT HE FLAILED MISERABLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals B

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## OPINION

## Lies are preferable to a ministry of truth

By GARY ABERNATHY  
Special to The Washington Post

George Orwell's classic dystopian novel "Nineteen Eighty-Four" describes a government-operated Ministry of Truth, which indoctrinates the population with irrational Newspeak messages like "war is peace" and "freedom is slavery." Reminds me of nonsensical coronavirus-related phraseology like "solonotgether."

It is frightening how many Americans today seem to clamor for a ministry of truth, insisting on everyone agreeing to one set of facts determined either by the state or by media fact experts. It plays into the idea that Americans are fragile or infantile, in need of guardians or babysitters, since they are incapable of deciphering for themselves right from wrong, safe from unsafe, or truth from lies. And it can only serve to stifle the search for a path forward at a time when the country needs all the creative thinking it can get.

When Donald Trump was elected president, there were immediate demands to investigate allegations that Russia had influenced the election by planting false information on social media. Facebook and others have since caved to pressure to identify and prohibit fabrications, appointing arbiters of truth. But since the dawn of elections, misleading and inaccurate information has been employed by candidates and political parties against other candidates and political parties. Foreign countries are no more effective at it than domestic players, and no more alarming.

Now comes the new coronavirus pandemic, and an insistence by the state and many in the media that we must all sin from the same hymn book. To do otherwise represents a danger to ourselves or to our

"most vulnerable." But does it make sense to rely solely on government health agencies that have arguably been consistently wrong in their predictions?

Scott Gottlieb, former head of the Food and Drug Administration under Trump, acknowledged over the weekend that while "mitigation didn't fail, I think it's fair to say that fact didn't work well as we expected." Likewise, predictive virus case and mortality models have typically been as inaccurate as long-range weather forecasts.

Millions of Americans can be forgiven for not placing blind trust in federal and state government leaders and their health advisers, whose main tactic was to order Americans to surrender freedom while an entire national economy was intentionally crashed, leading to the loss of millions of jobs and the accumulation of trillions of dollars (and counting) in additional debt.

Meanwhile, those who protest draconian lockdowns are depicted as right-wing, gun-toting vigilantes, ignorant in their resistance to state-mandated health directives. Some of them do carry guns, of course, but far from all, and it is worth noting that where many of us live, "gun toting" is not a pejorative description. It's a constitutionally protected, law-abiding act perfectly acceptable to be publicly demonstrated.

It is also ridiculous that we can trust institutional media outlets to separate the informational wheat from the chaff. Sadly, when the media is presented with the chance to demonstrate its reliability, it too often chooses to perpetuate its grudge against a president it detests, as it did by spreading the lie that Trump had suggested the American people should inject themselves with disinfectant. In fact, Trump merely expressed a hope that an injection — he did not say an injection of disinfectant — could

someday kill the virus in the people the way disinfectant kills it on surfaces. You may have heard this falsehood so many times now you don't believe me. Read Politifact's analysis and judge for yourself.

It's important to correct misinformation, which requires hearing or reading it in the first place, something we shouldn't fear. Dan Erickson and Artin Maselli, urgent-care doctors in Bakersfield, Calif., recently held a news conference to share their opinions of the coronavirus. They had concluded that the negative effect of the virus has been exaggerated, and that most lockdowns should be lifted. The video of their news conference went viral on YouTube.

In a story headlined "Dubious coronavirus claims by California doctors condemned by health experts," CNN reported that the American College of Emergency Physicians and American Academy of Emergency Medicine issued a joint statement calling the doctors' claims "reckless and irresponsible" and that "anyone who disagrees with current science and epidemiology regarding COVID-19."

A strong and clear statement by two authoritative bodies, but it wasn't enough. The doctors' good-faith viewpoints were considered so damnable that YouTube removed the video for "violating the platform policy on misinformation." In fact, YouTube's policy is to remove any content that contradicts the World Health Organization's stance on COVID-19, according to CEO Susan Wojcicki. That's frightening.

Americans will sometimes fall for lies. But they are pretty good at figuring out the truth from lies, and they have a great good information from bad, all by themselves.

Washington Post contributing columnist Gary Abernathy is a writer based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

## America needs a new FDR. Trump is not him.

By HENRY OLSEN

The Washington Post

A new campaign ad for President Donald Trump argues that he is the man to bring America's economy back. His track record, however, suggests he might not be able to do what's needed most: help us conquer our fear.

Polls show that Americans are afraid to shop, travel and do other things needed to reflate the economy. A recent Washington Post-University of Maryland poll, for example, found that 60 percent of Americans would feel uncomfortable shopping at a retail clothing store and more than three-quarters would be uncomfortable eating out at a restaurant. Another survey from the American Fund & UCLA Nationspeak also shows that large numbers of Americans are reluctant to resume pre-pandemic habits. Roughly 60% of Americans say they would probably or definitely not fly in an airplane or go to a stadium concert, live sporting event or the movies, while a majority say they would probably or definitely not shop at a retail mall and a plurality say they would probably or definitely not eat out at a restaurant.

The massive unemployment the country is experiencing is a direct result of the sudden collapse in demand for such activities. Loans from the Paycheck Protection Program or the Federal Reserve can support businesses for only so long. If customers do not return in large enough numbers, businesses will ultimately have to permanently shrink their workforce or close altogether. That would destroy any remaining hope for a quick, "V-shaped" recovery.

The history of the Great Depression provides examples of how presidents can suc-

ceed or fail at conquering fear. Republican Herbert Hoover was in office when the collapse started. He argued that the powers of the federal government to combat the depression were constitutionally limited. He convened business leaders and urged them to keep employment and wages high despite business conditions while also hiking tariffs to reduce competition from other countries for American consumer spending. By 1932, however, the continuing collapse meant that no amount of rhetoric could convince Americans that Hoover was the right man for the job. He lost his reelection bid in a historic landslide to New York Gov. Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

FDR set the template for future leaders on how to conquer fear. His first inaugural address set the tone when he proclaimed that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." He followed this up with dramatic and decisive action. His famous "Hundred Days" produced laws that revamped the American economy, providing support for American consumer spending, support for the unemployed and control over American business. He also issued regular nationwide radio broadcasts to speak directly to the American people in their homes. These "fireside chats" reassured Americans that the crisis, although still present, was being managed prudently and that the Federal Reserve and Congressists still debate whether FDR's New Deal significantly helped the economy, but gradual and tangible improvement led to FDR's smashing, record-setting reelection win.

Trump has some strengths that he can draw on as he embarks on his own leadership voyage. He projects confidence about America and his future. His claim that he has "total authority" sparked legitimate

pushback, but his instinct that Americans prefer leaders who act over those who plead their hands are tied is correct. Many Americans want to see a vigorous pursuit of national recovery accompanied by strong legislative and executive action.

But it's unlikely DJT can become the next FDR, given Trump's weaknesses. Roosevelt was despised by many Americans, a sentiment he said was "welcome" but the hatred from his enemies pales in comparison to that felt toward Trump. Nearly half of the country already despised him before the pandemic, and Trump's faltering performance so far has merely confirmed their beliefs. Trump also lacks FDR's charm and rhetorical gifts. Trump's twisting words and rhetorical games, such as his recent fiery chat to jump over the heads of a hostile media to unite America; instead, his use of a novel media has only increased our divisions.

Trump also faces real constraints on what sort of actions he can undertake to support Americans who are tied in place while refueling the economy. FDR had a Democratic-controlled Congress all too happy to support its leader. Trump has a Democratic-controlled House eager to hinder him, while the filibuster gives the Democratic Senate minority the ability to hold up most serious legislation.

America needs a president who can help us conquer our fears and overcome our divisions. FDR was a New York aristocrat who made Americans feel great again. We shall see if the New York billionaire in the Oval Office can, against all expectations, do the same thing and thereby meet his "rendezvous with destiny."

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### If Biden vows higher standard, investigate Reade claim fully

*The New York Times*

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democrats' presumptive nominee for president, has forcefully denied allegations of sexual harassment and assault made against him by Tara Reade, a former staff assistant in his Senate office.

"They aren't true," Biden said in a statement last Friday. "This never happened." Reade's accusations, which have been percolating for several weeks, are grave and graphic. She charges that, in the spring of 1993, Biden cornered her in a deserted hallway of the Capitol complex, pinned her against a wall, reached under her skirt and pulled her hair.

Reade's brother and multiple friends have said that she told them of the incident around the time it occurred. Some bits of evidence lend credence to her claim, even as others prompt skepticism. When Reade's brother, Collin Moulton, first spoke to *The Washington Post* about the alleged sexual advances, for instance, he mentioned only that she talked about Biden touching her neck and shoulders; several days later, Moulton texted *The Post* to say that he also recalled her sharing that Biden had put his hand "under her clothes."

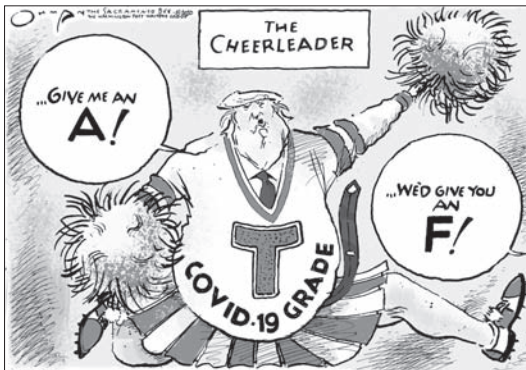
It is in other cases in such situations, it is said but impossible to be certain of the truth. But the stakes are too high to let the matter fester — or leave it to be investigated and adjudicated in the media. Biden is seeking the nation's highest office.

In 2018, this board advocated strongly for a vigorous inquiry into accusations of sexual misconduct raised against Brett Kavanaugh when he was nominated to a seat on the Supreme Court. Biden's pursuit of the presidency requires no less. His campaign, and his party, have a duty to assure the public that the accusations are being taken seriously. The Democratic National Committee should move to investigate the matter swiftly and thoroughly, with the full cooperation of the Biden campaign.

Reade's account has some apparent inconsistencies. Last year, she was one of several women who came forward with complaints of Biden hugging or touching them in ways that made them uncomfortable, but she did not raise the assault accusation until this March. She says she tried to share her story with the media earlier, only to get "shut down."

Reade says that she filed a formal harassment complaint with a congressional panel in 2019, but *The New York Times* report did not mention the assault. Although she kept some of her employment records from that time, she says she does not have a copy of that complaint. In his statement, Biden said that if such a document existed, there would be a copy of it in the National Archives, which retains records from what was the Office of Management and Enterprise Practices. He called on the archives "to identify any record of the complaint she alleges she filed and make available to the press any such document." Later that day, after the National Archives said it did not have personnel documents, Biden asked that the department make it possible to do an extensive search, also asking for "any and all other documents in the records that relate to the allegation."

This is a start, but it does not go far enough. Any serious inquiry must include the trove of records from Biden's Senate campaign that he donated to the University of Delaware in 2012. Currently, those files



are set to remain sealed until after Biden retires from public life — a common arrangement. There are growing calls for Biden to make those records available to see if they contain any mention of Reade or perhaps others who raised similar complaints about his behavior.

In an interview on MSNBC, Biden resisted these calls, insisting that his Senate papers do not contain any personnel files and so could not possibly shed light on Reade's allegations. He added that they do, however, contain sensitive information about his past work that could be unfairly exploited in a presidential campaign.

While understandable, this concern is not prohibitive — and Biden's word is insufficient to dispel the cloud. Any inventory should be strictly limited to information about Reade and conducted by an unbiased, apolitical panel, put together by the DNC and chosen to foster as much trust in its findings as possible. Admittedly, this would be a major undertaking. But the question at hand is no less than Biden's fitness for the presidency. No relevant memo should be left unexamined.

It has been noted that President Donald Trump has been accused of sexual harassment or assault by more than a dozen women. Those claims also should be investigated. Trump does not seriously address the claims against him; he simply denies them and attacks his accusers.

Biden has set higher standards for himself. That has been central to his appeal. His campaign is founded on the promise of restoring sanity, civility and decency to the presidency. Even if certainty isn't possible in this matter, the American people deserve at least the confidence that he, and the Democratic Party, have made every effort to bring the truth to light.

### Data show targeted lockdowns would work — and save jobs

*The Wall Street Journal*

Americans are paying a fearsome price for the government's strict lockdowns of American life and commerce, and now comes evidence that targeted lockdowns aimed at protecting those who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus would be better for public health and the economy.

That conclusion comes in a new working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research by MIT economists Daron Acemoglu, Victor Chernozhukov, Ivan Werning and Michael Whinston. The authors compared relative risks of infection, hospitalization and death for the young, the middle-aged and those over age 65. They then compared strict lockdowns that treat all age groups the same with a more targeted strategy that protects the old.

"Interestingly, we find that semi-targeted policies that simply apply a strict lockdown to the oldest group can achieve the majority of the gains from fully-targeted

policies," the authors write. "For example, a semi-targeted policy that involves the lockdown of those above 65 until a vaccine arrives can release the young and middle-aged groups back into the economy much more quickly, and still achieve a much lower fatality rate in the population (just above 1% of the population instead of 1.83% with the optimal uniform policy)."

Interesting is right. The universal lockdowns of March and April have been aimed specifically at preventing hospitals from being overrun with COVID-19 patients and thus reducing the death rate. But the paper says a targeted lockdown aimed at seniors combined with other policies like social distancing will reduce the death rate by more.

Targeted lockdowns also reduce economic harm, as you'd expect. "This policy also reduces the economic damage from 24.3% to 12.8% of one year's GDP. The reason is that, once the most vulnerable group is protected, the other groups can be reincorporated into the economy more quickly," the authors write.

The universal lockdowns have finally eased in many states, and the damage in the last two months can't be undone. But these studies can inform governors as they consider how and what to reopen in their states. And in particular they should inform government decisions about the kind of lockdowns to reimpose when there are coronavirus flare-ups, as there are likely to be until a vaccine or cure arrive.

Protect the most vulnerable, but don't put the entire state in economic cold storage in the name of a false choice between saving lives and saving money. On the growing evidence, targeted lockdowns can save more lives and more livelihoods.

### Trump's absence of leadership has put people at greater risk

*The Washington Post*

The coronavirus pandemic has killed more people in the United States than anywhere else in the world. At the same time, the nation is reeling from an absence of leadership by President Donald Trump and his administration. As the house burns, Trump is standing on the front lawn, boasting of success, denying responsibility, ordering others to grab the garden hose and promising that everything will be back to normal soon. His fecklessness is costing the country dearly.

After weeks of sacrifice, much of the nation has arrived at a very difficult crossroad. We need to maintain a stiff back against spreading infection while also gradually and carefully attempting to restart the economy. Yet Trump, who decided not to conduct a broad federal effort to battle the new coronavirus and instead passed responsibility to the governors, is now urging them to reopen too soon, risking more infections, more death and still

more economic loss.

The president is ignoring the strategy he announced just weeks ago. In April, the White House announced a series of "guidelines" for governors to phase in reopening, with criteria such as achieving a "downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period" and putting robust testing in place. Without having met these criteria, and with a dozen states in the South and Midwest are relaxing social distancing measures. But Trump cannot be bothered to demand compliance; he seems to have forgotten all about them in his cheerleading for reopening.

The consequences of this reversal may be tragic. The U.S. is already struggling with a stubbornly persistent 200,000 new infections a day, and more than 2,000 daily deaths. Many scientists and public health experts believe those numbers will spike thanks to the rushed restart.

There is a desperate need for adequate nationwide diagnostic testing and contact tracing so that outbreaks can be quickly and cautiously begun to resume work without triggering more sickness. That, too, has been left to the scattered and uneven leadership of states and localities, which are unable to deliver at the scale needed. Their challenge is compounded by serial failures in the federal bureaucracy driven by Trump's stubbornly persistent refusal. We now learn from the whistleblower complaint filed by a senior Health and Human Services official, Rick Bright, that when he warned a group of senior officials known as the Disaster Leadership Group on Feb. 7 about a shortfall of protective masks, other officials responded "there was no indication of a supply chain shortage or of issues with masks, and therefore there was no need to take immediate action." Such mistakes have been endemic.

The nation's economic implosion demands action, but the correct response is to reopen in a way that is sustainable and does not cost thousands of additional lives. Trump must not only change his tune, but there, but he also appears unwilling to seriously tackle the problem. We may soon see terrible consequences from his abdication.

### Virus-weary US must head off murder hornets at the pass

*The Dallas Morning News*

Like the rest of America, we've been following the coverage of the so-called murder hornets showing up in northern Washington state and just across the border in Canada. We still don't know how deeply these hornets from Asia have integrated themselves into North America, or whether this will become a problem that will challenge honeybee hives across the United States.

What we do know is this: If these jerks show their faces in Texas, authorities should show no hesitation in eradicating every last one of them. We're still hoping that these invasive bugs can be murdered off in Washington state before they gain so strong of a foothold that they're impossible to dislodge. Otherwise, we'll see these hornets wreck honeybee hives by invading them, killing bees, and carrying off parts of their carcasses to feed their own young.

In Japan, apparently, honeybees have figured out a defense against the murder hornet. The bees pile onto one of these tough creatures as it tries to make its way into their hive, and rather than uselessly employing their stingers against the hornet's hard outer-shell, the bees work to overheat the hornet. Essentially, the bees form a ball around the invader and over time the inside of the ball rises to a temperature the bees can withstand but that the hornet cannot. In the end, what's left is the cooked carcass of a murder hornet.

That works for us as does any other eradication technique. In this time of coronavirus, we simply can't deal with an additional pest that includes something called murder hornets.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## ATF: Man with 90 guns researched killings

**SC** COLUMBIA — A South Carolina man was arrested and accused of illegally possessing 90 weapons, including numerous assault rifles, authorities said.

Edward Daniel Kimpton Jr., 25, was charged Tuesday with wire fraud, mail fraud and illegal possession of machine guns. The Columbia State reported.

Kimpton was arrested after an 18-month investigation by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Secret Service. Authorities said Kimpton purchased firearms, bullets, scopes and tactical gear online from individual and retail sellers using a fake name and an electronic payment platform.

A criminal complaint said Kimpton had the guns shipped to federal firearm license-holders in different South Carolina counties, then he would pick up the gear and contest the sale, stating he never received the items. The complaint said Kimpton retained the guns and the money.

During the investigation, authorities discovered that Kimpton researched content on South Carolina mass shooters in Charleston in 2015 and Florence in 2018.

## City's oldest girls Catholic school closing

**MD** BALTIMORE — A Catholic college preparatory school for girls which counts among its alumni House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski announced on Tuesday that it is closing.

The Institute of Notre Dame will close on June 30 in the midst of a pandemic that will prevent anyone from being inside the school building during its final days. The Baltimore Sun reported. Leaders cited declining enrollment, financial difficulties and a need to raise millions of dollars with at least \$5 million in building repairs as among the reasons for closing.

According to the school's history, its first class graduated in July 1864 as Civil War cannon fire could be heard in the distance.

## Police: Woman set blaze after traffic stop

**PA** COATESVILLE — Authorities say a woman whose car was towed after a weekend traffic stop near Philadelphia is accused of having set fire to one of the city's police cars and trying to ignite other vehicles.

Chester County prosecutors say an officer spotted a police vehicle on fire in the Coatesville police parking lot shortly after 8:30 p.m. Sunday. He ran to retrieve a fire extinguisher and fired one of the city's police cars and trying to ignite other vehicles.

Police said the incident was recorded by video surveillance cameras, and an investigation revealed that the suspect had been stopped earlier that day by police and her car had been towed.



GREG LEHMAN, WALLA WALLA (WASH.) UNION-BULLETIN/AP

## Giving Walla Walla a lift

City workers Taylor Lemke, left, and Moises Salazar hang a 35-pound flower basket on Main Street on Tuesday morning in Walla Walla, Wash. The basket and 100 others will stay up through late fall.

Prosecutors said the 33-year-old woman is facing charges of arson, attempted arson and related counts.

## Trooper helps deliver his baby on side of road

**MA** BOSTON — A Massachusetts State Police trooper's helped deliver his baby on the side of New Hampshire highway.

Trooper George D'Amelio was on duty when his wife, Christine, called to tell him she was going into labor. He quickly went home to pick her up and started driving to a hospital in New Hampshire. On the way there, D'Amelio had to pull his car over on a major highway in Bedford, N.H., and deliver his son.

"Baby Jackson 'Jack' D'Amelio is doing great," state police wrote Monday in a Facebook post.

"What a little Trooper!" New Hampshire State Police troopers and members of the Bedford Fire Department assisted D'Amelio with the delivery.

## Nearly \$1M dumped during police chase

**CA** LOS ANOES — Nearly \$1 million in cash was dumped on a Central California road during a police chase that ended with the arrests of two New York men who apparently planned to buy marijuana with the money, the California Highway Patrol said.

Frank Caparao, 23, and Desmond McDay, 25, both of Medford, were arrested last Friday evening, the Merced Sun-Star reported.

The chase began shortly before 6:30 p.m. when a CHP officer tried to stop one of three black

SUVs that appeared to be traveling together on Interstate 5 south of Los Banos, authorities said.

During the chase, one SUV straddled lanes to block the patrol car, which maneuvered around it and kept chasing the first car, a Chevrolet Suburban.

The Suburban stopped on the shoulder at one point and the driver got out, dumped two cardboard boxes and then took off again before finally stopping for good, the CHP said.

The cardboard boxes contained \$915,000 in cash, and a police dog alerted to the odor of drugs on the money, authorities said.

## Families evacuate after sinkhole opens old mine

**SD** RAPID CITY — Several homes in the Rapid City area were evacuated after a sinkhole collapsed and opened

## THE CENSUS

**186** The number of drivers cited for speeding or having loud exhausts on

Pacific Coast Highway in south Orange County, Calif., during the weekend. The crackdown was prompted by incidents a week earlier when residents complained to authorities that motorists and motorcyclists were speeding through coastal towns. The Orange County Register reported. A county sheriff's deputy clocked one motorcyclist going 103 mph, said Laguna Beach police Capt. Jeff Calvert, who was in charge of the enforcement effort.

into an abandoned gypsum mine. Twelve Blackhawk families were displaced last week when the 40-foot-by-50-foot sinkhole opened, breaking water and sewer lines in the neighborhood.

"It was going into a bottomless pit," said John Trudo, 40, who realized something was wrong when his sink faucet didn't work.

Cavers found that the sinkhole opened into an abandoned gypsum mine at least 600 feet long, filled with holes from drilling and mining equipment, the Rapid City Journal reported Monday.

"I really never imagined that when we went back down there it would be that big," said Adam Weaver, a member of Paha Sapa Grotto, a local caving group. He added the mine is 25 feet to 30 feet below ground.

## 2 rescued after being trapped by rock slide

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Emergency crews in Utah rescued two teenagers after they were trapped in a massive rock slide, authorities said.

The Sevier County Sheriff's Office said the teens from Gunnison were driving on a road northeast of Salina when the rock slide occurred Sunday night, KUTV-TV reported. The passenger was partially trapped and the vehicle had to be cut open for first responders to free him.

The passenger was taken to Gunnison Valley Hospital and the driver was flown by medical helicopter to Utah Valley Hospital in Provo. Their injuries did not appear to be life-threatening, the sheriff's office said.

## 3 national forests halt recreational shooting

**AZ** PHOENIX — Recreational shooting is being temporarily prohibited in three national forests in Arizona in a move that officials say is aimed at reducing the wildfire threat.

The U.S. Forest Service ordered the prohibitions in the Coronado, Prescott and Tonto national forests to begin Wednesday and to continue until July 31 or until rescinded. Officials said the three forests are experiencing an increase in drying trends with large amounts of grass that could be fuel for fires resulting from above-average winter moisture.

From wire reports

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# SCOREBOARD/VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Sports on AFN

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myafn.net

## Deals

### Wednesday's transactions

**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**BALTIMORE RAVENS** — Signed 2020 draft picks G Ben Brereton, DT Justin Madubuike and WR James Proche. Signed undrafted free agent TE Jake Brestand, OL John Doka, P Dom Maglio and LB Kristian Welch.  
**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Agreed to terms with OL Cameron Erving — Signed Ruell Martin for minority coaching fellowship.  
**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS** — Signed LB Justin Phillips and T Sam Young and undrafted free agent T Kamal Seymour.  
**MIAMI DOLPHINS** — Signed fourth-round pick G Solomon Kindley.  
**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Signed second-round pick OLB Josh Uche to a four-year contract.  
**NEW YORK JETS** — Signed undrafted free agents WR Lawrence Cager, WR Joseph Campbell, DB Shayne Carter, DB Javelin Guidry, DL Dominique Davis, OL Jared Hillers, DE/LB Bryce Huff, DB Lamar Jackson and OL Sterling Johnson.  
**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Agreed to terms with CB Jonathan Joseph on a one-year contract.  
**WASHINGTON REDSKINS** — Agreed to terms with OL Michael Liedtke on a one-year contract.

**BASKETBALL**  
**National Basketball Association**  
**CHICAGO BULLS** — Named Pat Connelly as Vice President of Player Personnel and J.J. Poik as Assistant General Manager.

**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**ANAHEIM DUCKS** — Signed D Christian Dabrowski and D Earl Hakala on contract extensions.

**COLLEGE**  
**EASTERN TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY** — Named Jason Shay as men's head basketball coach.  
**NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY** — Named Lukasz Zupawski as women's assistant wrestling coach.

**WRESTLING**  
**USCULUM** — Named Meagan Price as women's basketball head coach.

## Pro basketball

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	46	18	.719	—
Boston	43	21	.672	3
Philadelphia	39	25	.600	7½
Brooklyn	34	30	.529	16
New York	21	45	.318	26
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	24	.631	—
Orlando	30	35	.462	11
Washington	24	40	.375	16½
Charlotte	23	42	.354	18
Atlanta	20	47	.298	22
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	39	25	.615	—
Indiana	39	25	.600	14
Chicago	22	43	.338	31
Pittsburgh	20	46	.303	33½
Cleveland	19	46	.292	34
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	24	.625	—
Dallas	37	27	.597	1½
Memphis	32	32	.500	8
New Orleans	28	36	.438	12
San Antonio	17	47	.262	12½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	41	23	.641	1½
Utah	40	24	.625	2½
Oklahoma City	39	27	.594	4½
Portland	39	27	.594	4½
Minnesota	19	45	.297	23½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	49	14	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	40	20	.688	5½
Sacramento	28	38	.423	21½
Phoenix	26	39	.400	24
Golden State	15	50	.231	35

## AP spotlight

**May 8**  
**1968** — Jim "Catfish" Hunter of the Oakland Athletics pitched a perfect game, beating the Minnesota Twins 4-0. It is the only perfect game in a 115-99 victory league regular season in 46 seasons.  
**1970** — Walt Frazier scores 36 points to lead the New York Knicks to a 115-99 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers and the NBA championship.  
**2001** — Randy Johnson becomes the third pitcher to strike out 20 in nine innings. He doesn't finish the game as the Arizona Diamondbacks go on to beat Cincinnati 4-3 in 11 innings.

# NBA asked to help researchers

## Players that endured COVID-19 can provide scientific information

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

Dr. Priya Sampathkumar gets asked by two teen-aged sons every day when they can expect to see NBA games again.

She's among the doctors desperately trying to answer that question — and the NBA is now trying to help.

Sampathkumar is on the staff at the Mayo Clinic, which is starting to get support from the NBA and its players for a study that will aim to shed more light on how antibody testing can help the medical world further understand COVID-19. NBA teams were told this week about the study through an invitation for players and staff to volunteer to take part.

"I think this is an opportunity towards understanding when we might be able to open things back up," said Sampathkumar, the Mayo Clinic's Chair of the Immunization and the Infection Prevention and Control Specialty Councils. "It's certainly not at the end of the study, we're not going to be able to say, 'OK, on X, Y and Z date everything can open up again.'"

But every little bit helps right now, which is why the NBA asked teams to assist, if possible. Teams were told that the study would also help doctors understand the prevalence of COVID-19 among infected individuals who were asymptomatic or experienced only mild symptoms.

"From a team perspective, and saying this broadly across all teams, participation across the NBA allows for more robust information from the community at large in providing prevalence data," said Dr. Jimmie Mancell, the team physician for the Memphis Grizzlies.

It's a relatively simple process: Teams will



rick bowmer/AP

Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray arrives at the Vivint Smart Home Arena on Feb. 5 before the start of his team's game against the Utah Jazz in Salt Lake City.

receive materials from researchers, then have phlebotomists collect specimens that will be shipped back to the Mayo Clinic. Participants will also have to fill out a survey to gauge their level of potential exposure. Within two days, test results will be known — and because this is about antibodies, it will not take resources away from those doing other testing to identify those who are sick with the virus.

Additional goals of the study include being able to identify more patients who could donate plasma and improve care for patients who are dealing with the coronavirus, plus potentially more researchers closer to a vaccine.

"It really has a couple of different potential goals in the sense that one is that it does help

to assess the prevalence of antibodies within sports in general and certainly for those players who participate with the NBA in terms of exposure," said Dr. John DiFiore, the NBA's director of sports medicine. "But it also is a study that is attempting to do sort of a higher-level validation of a tool that will be more easy at point of care or at home. So, it has two parts to it."

The virus has infected more than 3.6 million people worldwide and killed over a quarter-million, according to a tally through Wednesday by Johns Hopkins University. Experts believe the actual number of infections and deaths are higher than what has been officially reported by government agencies.

# Cavaliers step cautiously into hopeful return

By TOM WITHERS  
Associated Press

**CLEVELAND** — Even if the NBA doesn't resume this season, and at this point no one knows for sure, the Cleveland Cavaliers believe it's time to start getting ready for the next one.

"Any minute that we can get working with each other is beneficial to us," Cavs coach J.B. Bickerstaff said Wednesday.

Cleveland is one of a handful of teams planning to reopen practice facilities on Friday so players can work out as states across the country ease the social-distancing restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought sports to an abrupt halt in March.

Bickerstaff, who took over one of the league's youngest teams in February after John Beilein stepped down midway through his first season, said the Cavs have been in contact with local and Ohio officials to ensure they're following the proper protocol to protect personnel.

Only four players will be permitted at a time inside the team's facility in Independence, Ohio,



TONY DEAN/AP

Even if the NBA doesn't resume this season, and at this point no one knows for sure, the Cavaliers believe it's time to start getting ready for the next one. "Any minute that we can get working with each other is beneficial to us," says Cavs coach J.B. Bickerstaff, above.

which has been closed for nearly two months. The Cavs intend to hold two-hour sessions during which only one player and one developmental coach — wearing gloves and a mask — will be permitted at the same basket.

Bickerstaff said safety is para-

mount. The Cavs' medical staff will take the temperature of every person before entering the building, and there will be areas off limits. Also, the team intends to designate and mark basketballs for each player so there is no cross-over and everything will be

meticulously cleaned.

"The league is recommending that they keep 12 feet between one another, so you're there basically rebounding for a guy and passing to a guy," Bickerstaff said during a Zoom conference call.

"No one is being pressured to do anything. If people feel uncomfortable doing this, it's not mandatory for them to show up. We've got some guys on staff that are willing to do it."

The league is trying to ensure that no team has a competitive advantage by opening their facility. Many teams cannot, some of them possibly for several more weeks, because of local government regulations.

The situation remains fluid. Bickerstaff spoke to reporters shortly after he and other coaches were on a call with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who has been invited by the National Basketball Players Association to speak to players in a call on Friday.

Bickerstaff remains hopeful the league will be able to enact a plan so the Cavs can get back on the floor. After months of tumult, they were beginning to click and had gone 5-6 under Bickerstaff.

# BEST SPORTS MOVIES

## No. 6: 'Field of Dreams'

# Fathers and sons, corn with lots of crying

Movie theme of redemption was a hit with many

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

**B**aseball and tears, the ones streaking down cheeks. Tears, the kind leaving rifts between fathers and sons.

"Field of Dreams" is about phantoms and phenoms on an unlikely diamond in an Iowa cornfield.

Emotions gush like water across the grass, resonating three decades later because of the nerves the movie digs down to reach.

"I remember, I think it was the very first test screening we had, it was in the LA area and it was a recruited audience and they didn't know anything about the movie," director Phil Alden Robinson recalls the week. "And towards the end, I was sitting in the back, and I noticed a woman about two, maybe three rows in front of me on the aisle, just weeping.

"Her head was in her hands, she was sobbing heavily," he went on. "I started to get out of my seat. I was going to go over to her and just put my arm on her shoulder and say, 'It's just a movie.' And I got one or two steps towards her and I recognized her. She was somebody from the marketing department of the studio and she'd already seen the film. And I thought, 'Oh, my God, this is really something.'"

Released in April 1989, two weeks after "Major League," 10 months after "Bull Durham" and eight months after "Eight Men Out," "Field of Dreams" was No. 6 in The Associated Press' Top 25 favorite sports movies poll.

Robinson adapted W.P. Kinsella's 1982 novel "Shoeless Joe" into a screenplay that trimmed and focused the story about a farmer who replaces corn with a ballfield as he seeks a reunion with and redemption from his long-dead father. Ray Kinsella, played by Kevin Costner, hears a mysterious, unidentified voice telling him: "If you build it, he will come," "ease his pain" and "go the distance." The movie culminates to leading him playing catch with his dad's ghost.

Along the way, his quest takes him to Boston's Fenway Park and to Chisholm, Minn. He is assisted by his wife Amy (Amy Madigan), embittered novelist Terence Mann (James Earl Jones) and Moonlight Graham (Burt Lancaster), who got into one game for the 1905 New York Giants, never stepped to the plate and later became a doctor. The ghost team that plays on the Iowa field is led by Shoeless Joe Jackson (Ray Liotta), banned along with the rest



CHARLIE NEUBERG/AP

People portraying ghost players emerge from a cornfield as they reenact a scene from the movie "Field of Dreams" at the movie site in Dyersville, Iowa. The 1989 film was No. 6 in The Associated Press' Top 25 favorite sports movies poll.



NICKI KOHL, THE (DUBUQUE, IOWA) TELEGRAPH HERALD/AP

Actors Kevin Costner, right, and Timothy Busfield joke around at first base during a celebrity softball game at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa in 2014.

of the 1919 Chicago White Sox for accepting money to throw the World Series.

Former baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent concluded the themes were much the same as those emphasized by his predecessor, A. Bartlett Giamatti, a Yale professor of Renaissance literature who reveled in baseball's poetic side.

"It's at the heart of most of Western literature, the struggle to live away from home and then to get home. And when you get home, you're embraced by your teammates and you're sheltered in the dugout," Vincent said. "Bart's point was that the reason academics and intellectuals like baseball is that baseball is really a telling of the Western canon, the struggle to exist away from all and the fact that the redemption occurs when you get home."

Giamatti, consumed that summer by the investigation of Pete Rose's gambling, didn't have time to watch "Field of Dreams," "Major League" or "Eight Men Out."

"I'm not boycotting them. I'm busy. And I tend to read books when I don't sit here," he said during an interview with The Associated Press at his office that Aug. 18. "I don't want to look like this workaholic, this wonk who doesn't — I simply have not yet had a chance to see them. I express it that way because I have every confidence I will. They are made for the ages. They are going to be in the culture, and I will catch up with them."

Giamatti announced Rose's lifetime suspension that Aug. 24 and died of a heart attack eight days later.

Robinson grew up in Long

## About the film

**Year:** 1989

**Screenwriter:** Phil Alden Robinson

**Starring:** Kevin Costner, James Earl Jones, Ray Liotta

**Plot:** An Iowa corn farmer (Costner) hears voices, clears his crop to build a baseball diamond and gets a visit from the 1919 Chicago White Sox and a few others.

**Iconic Line:** "If you build it, he will come." — Voice from the corn fields

**Oscars:** 3 nominations  
— Associated Press

Beach, N.Y., and vividly remembers sitting in a chair between his living room and kitchen as a 5-year-old, watching Elston Howard ground to Pee Wee Reese for the final out of the 1955 World Series against the Yankees, giving the Dodgers their only title while in Brooklyn. A photo of Robinson with an arm around Roy Campanella remains one of his most prized possessions. He was scarred by the team's move to Los Angeles after the 1957 season.

"It was the first time in my life that I've learned that life can break your heart," he said.

"Field of Dreams" earned Academy Award nominations for best picture and best adapted screenplay (both won by "Driving Miss Daisy") and best original score (won by "The Little Mermaid"). It has been repeatedly replayed on cable television in recent weeks.

The Mann character predicted "people will come" to the field to long for their past, a speech shown on video boards before player introductions at World Series games.

Even during the coronavirus pandemic, people have driven to the movie location site in Dyersville, Iowa. An 8,000-seat ballpark is being built adjacent to the preserved movie field, and the Yankees and Chicago White Sox were scheduled to play there on Aug. 13.

"I would say about four or five vehicles a day," said Roman Weinberg, director of operations for Go The Distance Baseball, which owns the movie site.

"You'll periodically see people slowly get out of their car and make that all-familiar walk to the diamond. Some play catch. Others just walk the bases, take a couple of pictures, hop back in their vehicle and head home. People are drawn to the simplicity of the site and just the wholesomeness of it."

Baseball goes on, in some form.

"The mistake that some people make when they say baseball, they think of MLB," Robinson said. "But it's also minor leagues. It's college. It's high school. It's Little League. It's stickball. It's stoopball. It's fathers playing catch with their sons. It resides in a place in our hearts and imaginations that's much, much, much bigger than just MLB."

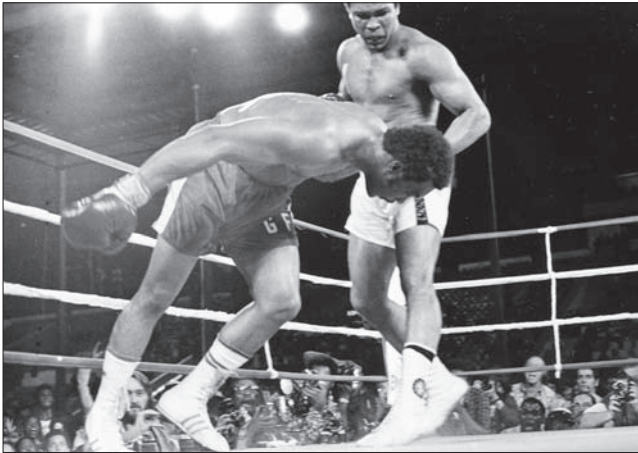
**Editor's note:** Recently, the Associated Press revealed its Top 25 of sports movies, as voted on by 70 writers and editors around the world. After compiling the list, the AP assigned writers to present stories examining the Top 10 from unique perspectives. This is the fifth in the series, a look at the impact of the film that was voted sixth, "Field of Dreams."

# BEST SPORTS DOCUMENTARIES



AP photos

Above: President Bill Clinton, right, walks on the Arkansas State University campus with basketball player Arthur Agee, a senior at the school who was one of the stars of the movie "Hoop Dreams." Right: Challenger Muhammad Ali, right, watches as defending world champion George Foreman goes to the canvas during the eighth round of their WBA/WBC championship match in Kinshasa, Zaire on Oct. 30, 1974. The 1996 film "When We Were Kings" is a documentary of the bout known as the "Rumble In The Jungle."



## Commentary

# Real life provides plenty of drama

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
Associated Press

Sports and cinema have an uneasy alliance.

For every "Raging Bull," there are an abundance of flicks that get it wrong when they try to recapture a memorable event or famous athlete. Seriously, how does the compelling life of Babe Ruth produce not one, but two of the greatest stinkers in the history of filmmaking ("The Babe Ruth Story" and "The Babe")?

There's another format that serves the genre far better: the documentary.

No wonder three of the last four Academy Awards in this category went to sports-related films.

With that in mind, here are 10 documentaries that everyone should see (and 10 others that are definitely worth a look):

**10. Steve McQueen: 'The Man & Le Mans' (2015)**

McQueen was at the height of his career (and an accolade) when he decided to make the ultimate racing film centered on the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Too bad he didn't have a script. The King of Cool was never quite the same after his hubris-fueled making of "Le Mans."

**Also worth watching:** Pumping Iron (1977). An entertaining look at professional bodybuilding propelled Arnold Schwarzenegger to movie stardom.

**9. No No: A Documentary (2014)**  
Dock Ellis was a Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher who wore curlers on the field and always spoke his mind. The title refers to the 1970 no-hitter that Ellis claims to have thrown under the influence of LSD, but the story of this baseball iconoclast runs far deeper.

**Also worth watching:** "Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream" (1995). This chronicling of the Hammer's life as he overcomes racism on the way to breaking baseball's most revered record was nominated for an Academy Award.

**8. Murderball (2005)**

If there's any doubt that Paralympic athletes approach their craft with just as much skill, determination and even perversity as their able-bodied counterparts, this film about the battering-ram sport of wheelchair rugby should put that to rest. An Oscar nominee, it lost to "March of the Penguins."

**Also worth watching:** "Next Goal Wins" (2014). You can't help but cheer for the world's worst soccer teams as American Samoa attempts to overcome the legacy of a 31-0 loss.



SUSAN STERNER/AP

Foreman, left, looks on as Will Smith, center, gives Ali a hug after "When We Were Kings" won Best Documentary Feature at the Academy Awards on March 24, 1997.

**7. Deep Water (2006)**

The tragic story of Britain's Donald Crowhurst, a quixotic weekend sailor who attempted a nonstop, solo race around the world in 1968. The quick twist went away, and the prospect of financial ruin led to his descent into deceit and madness.

**Also worth watching:** "Maiden" (2019). Another excellent sailing film, this one an empowering tale of the first all-female crew to compete in the Whitbread Round the World Race.

**6. One Day in September (1999)**

It's still jarring to watch the much-chronicled bombing that led to one of sport's darkest days — the killing of 11 Israelis at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The Germans' naive attempts to negotiate with the Palestinian terrorists. The amateurish plans to pull off a rescue. The hopelessly optimistic reports that all had been saved. The first of several Academy Award winners for Best Documentary on our list.

**Also worth watching:** "The Two Escobars" (2010). Perhaps the best entry in ESPN's acclaimed "30 for 30" documentary series looks at drug kingpins fueling the rise of Colombian soccer leading up to the 1994 World Cup.

**5. Senna (2010)**

Ayrton Senna was pure genius behind the wheel

of a race car, but this film brilliantly captures the true essence of this mercurial Brazilian through archival footage, interviews and home movies. Most touching is Senna's softer side, as he frets over the future of a homeland as complicated as the man himself.

**Also worth watching:** "Red Army" (2014). The rise and fall of the Soviet dynasty that ruled amateur hockey for more than three decades.

**4. Free Solo (2018)**

Another Oscar winner, this profile of Alex Honnold's harrowing climb up El Capitan without ropes or safety equipment (known as a free solo) is a compelling dichotomy — edge-of-the-seat footage and a deeply personal story of a rock climber who seems truly at peace only when he's clinging to the side of a mountain, dangling between life and death.

**Also worth watching:** "The Man Who Skied Down Everest" (1975). Japan's Yuichiro Miura takes off from near the top of the world's tallest peak, after a tragic climb that claimed the lives of six Sherpa guides. An Oscar winner the year before "Rocky" became the first sports-related film to claim the Academy Award for best picture.

**3. Icarus (2017)**

You never know what you might find. Filmmaker and cycling enthusiast Bryan Fogel wanted to explore ways to

get away with doping. He wound up uncovering a major international scandal — the Russian doping scheme at the 2014 Winter Olympics. Fogel rightfully received an Academy Award for this important film, after getting a big assist from whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov, former head of Russia's anti-doping laboratory.

**Also worth watching:** "Stop at Nothing: The Lance Armstrong Story" (2014). This brutally unflattering portrait of the disgraced cyclist shows how he was willing to crush anyone who got in his way, without the slightest hint of regret.

**2. When We Were Kings (1996)**  
The 1974 heavyweight title fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman — the famed "Rumble In The Jungle" — was a cultural milestone that ran far deeper than boxing. It was a chance for African-Americans to take pride in their ancestral home, even while acknowledging the highly questionable ethics of staging the bout in an impoverished African country ruled by a brutal dictator. Footage from the accompanying music festival, which featured James Brown and B.B. King, is an added bonus in yet another Academy Award winner.

**Also worth watching:** "Tyson" (2008). Essentially a preview of Iron Mike's one-man show, it works because of Tyson's brutal honesty and self-reflection.

**1. Hoop Dreams (1994)**

The undisputed king of all sports documentaries, this film wasn't even nominated for an Oscar — an Academy Award flub that ranks right up there with "Citizen Kane." Five years of filming produced an unforgettable portrait of two African-American high school students hoping to escape their crime-ridden Chicago neighborhoods by making it to the NBA. Far more than just a basketball film, this is a brutal expose on society's inequality and poverty's horrific toll.

**Also worth watching:** "Undeclared" (2011). From the same vein as "Hoop Dreams" but burdened a bit by the white-savior approach, this Oscar winner documents an inner city Memphis high school and the kids who hope to improve their lot in life through a down-trodden football program.

**Asterisk:** "O.J.: Made in America" (2016). This Academy Award winner for best documentary of 2016, but it's really a TV docuseries. That excludes it from our list, but it's definitely worth watching if you've got nearly eight hours to spare.

**Don't hold up well:** "The Endless Summer" and "Jack Johnson." The former is recalled as a seminal surfing documentary, but the racial and sexist stereotyping — especially during stops in Africa — made this 1966 film almost impossible to watch. Same for the 1970 Oscar-nominated documentary about the first black heavyweight champion, which largely normalizes the blatant discrimination Johnson endured but is at least worth a listen for the Miles Davis soundtrack.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Different strokes

Ex-Olympic swimmer Thompson performing in the operating room, rather than the pool

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
Associated Press

Jenny Thompson still loves speed.

Only now, she performs in an operating room rather than the pool.

One of America's greatest Olympic swimmers, Thompson is on the front line of the fight against coronavirus as an anesthesiologist at the VA Medical Center in Charleston, S.C.

"I like things that happen fast," she said. "In the operating room, things happen fast."

Thompson competed in four Olympics, winning eight golds and 12 medals overall before she retired after the 2004 Athens Games. Then she turned to her other passion.

Health care. The Massachusetts native chose anesthesiology because it fit the persona of a swimmer who specialized in shorter races.

"I loved the acute nature of helping patients during surgery," Thompson said. "As a sprinter, I really appreciated the fast changes you see in physiology. You're giving drugs and seeing immediate results."

After working in a private practice in Maine for seven years, she moved to Charleston in 2018 along with her husband and their two young sons, now 4 and 7.

The coronavirus outbreak added a whole new element to her job.

"When I saw it coming our way, I had a lot of fear about being protected," the 47-year-old Thompson conceded. "Once we had adequate PPE (personal protective equipment), I felt like I was ready."

The virus has yet to have a major impact in South Carolina, which has recorded about 6,500 cases and less than 300 deaths. The VA hospital in Charleston has dealt with only one serious case of COVID-19, according to Thompson, and a handful of other patients who were stricken with milder symptoms.

But aging veterans are an especially vulnerable group. Thompson knows the numbers could

wget worse, especially with South Carolina joining a growing list of states that are taking steps to reopen even as the death toll in the United States climbs past 70,000.

A mandatory "work-or-home" order was lifted Monday by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, who also eased other restrictions on daily life.

"The end is not anywhere in sight. I know we will see more patients," Thompson said. "We're prepared and we're ready."

She has mixed feelings about lifting restrictions that have helped curb the spread of the highly infectious virus, but have sent the economy into a record-setting plunge.

"I'm worried there's going to be another surge of cases," Thompson said. "I also think it's a delicate balance of what people can handle, and what the economy can handle. Unemployment is the worst it's been in history, but people need to be accountable for their actions."

This past weekend, there were scenes around the country of people gathering in large numbers, many of them not wearing masks or staying the recommended 6 feet apart. Some headed to the beach. Others congregated in city parks. There were even reports of people lining up at an Atlanta mall to purchase a newly released Air Jordan sneaker from Nike.

That is troubling to health-care workers such as Thompson.

"We have to take social distancing seriously," she said. "We have to wear masks. We have to stay 6 feet apart. We can't have parties. We need social responsibility. I know we need to open up, but we need to do it smartly, based on data. We can't just have a date in mind to do it. We need to do it only when it's appropriate for that region based on the data."

She was one of America's greatest relay swimmers, capturing 12 of her 12 Olympic medals while teaming with others. She is tied with fellow swimmers Dara Torres and Natalie Coughlin for the most overall medals by an American woman. Only Michael Phelps has won more.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Jenny Thompson swims during a qualifying heat of the 100-meter butterfly at the Olympic Aquatic Centre during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. One of America's greatest Olympic swimmers, Thompson is now on the front line of the fight against coronavirus as an anesthesiologist at the VA hospital in Charleston, S.C.



PHOTOS BY ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Above: U.S. Olympic Team archer Brady Ellison walks back from a target as he practices on his range at his farm in Globe, Ariz. Ellison shoots about 100 arrows a day after a comeback from arm pain. Below: Ellison checks on a piglet at his farm. His name may not seem familiar despite a decorated career that includes many medals and world marks.

## Arm pain gone, Ellison's career is back on target

By PAT GRAHAM  
Associated Press

In between remodeling his archery workshop and raising piglets, Brady Ellison shoots about 100 arrows a day on his custom-built range.

That's not very high volume for him. He's scaled way back with the coronavirus pandemic postponing the Tokyo Games until next summer and his season on hold.

This is the promising part: No shooting pain. A little while back, the three-time Olympic medalist felt searing discomfort through his right arm whenever he released an arrow.

Doctors couldn't solve it. He couldn't shoot through it. He nearly quit and went to work at a local copper mine in Arizona.

Now gold in Tokyo is back in the picture.

His comeback will be highlighted in an upcoming documentary and features a Hollywood-esque twist: A natural healer in Slovenia helped alleviate his pain to the point where he became the world champion.

"I went from looking for jobs and quitting archery to believing I'm going to win in Tokyo," the 31-year-old Ellison said in a phone interview from his six-acre property in Globe, Ariz., where he's waiting for the season to resume.

Usually around this time of year, Ellison is shooting 300 arrows each day.

Instead, he's scaled back the shooting and is taking care of house projects. He rebuilt the wood floor in his workshop, which also serves as his indoor facility. It's actually two sheds pushed close together in which he simply opens the doors to both in order to shoot.

He's also tending to a litter of piglets and squeezing in some bow fishing.

Anything to pass the time until competitions start back up. He's not feeling the crunch even though he relies on events for about 70% of his income. Over the years, he's been financially savvy with his earnings.

Ellison sees himself competing through the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, if not longer.

Especially now, with his arm back to feeling better.

Shortly after capturing an Olympic bronze medal in the individual event at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro



Games, along with silver during the team competition, Ellison began experiencing pain in one of his fingers.

Steadily, it grew worse as the pain radiated from his fingertips through his arm.

"Felt like bolts of lightning when I shot," he said. The discomfort persisted into 2017 and '18. He consulted medical experts and hand specialists.

"The doctors, they pretty much just told me to quit," said Ellison, who also earned a silver in the team event at the 2012 London Games.

His wife, Toja, competes in archery for Slovenia and heard of a natural healer back home. The healer specialized in helping those with thyroid conditions, which Ellison has dealt with and for which he takes medication. He went in the fall of 2018 for that reason.

He never mentioned his arm concerns. First consultation: "He told me that I had an injury in my right hand," Ellison said.

Ellison said the process was simple. The healer put his hands on Ellison's arm/hand and he almost instantly felt relief.

"Three days later I shot more arrows in a single day than I have in three years," said Ellison, who still visits the healer when he and his wife return to Slovenia. "No pain."

In 2019, Ellison turned in a memorable season that included a world title and a return to the No. 1 spot in the world rankings for the first time since March 2013.

"In the back of your head, you're a little afraid (the pain) could happen again," Ellison said. "So you make every day count while you can. I didn't take anything for granted like before."

## SOCCER

## Bundesliga restart offers Europe hope

By ROB HARRIS  
Associated Press

Germany's decision that soccer can return this month provided encouragement for players and teams across Europe on Wednesday that the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic could soon be coming to an end.

With COVID-19 infections declining, German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared that the return of the top two leagues could be included in the loosening of lockdown measures.

However, supporters will be locked out of stadiums for some time to come across Europe to contain the coronavirus while there is no vaccine.

The Bundesliga is now set to be the first major men's soccer competition to resume in Europe on Friday, May 15, after the shutdown of the sport across the continent in March. The Belgian, French and Dutch leagues were all canceled prematurely after governments decided it is not safe for sports to be staged yet — even without fans.

"This ensures that the sporting decisions are made on the pitch and not in the boardroom," said Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the chairman of Bayern Munich, which has a four-point lead over Borussia Dortmund with nine games remaining.

"Let's pick up where you left off, Erling," Dortmund said in a tweet linking to a compilation of goals by teenage sensation Erling Haaland.

Croatia also announced plans Wednesday to bring back soccer on May 30 and Turkey said it was aiming for June 12 and still hopes to host the postponed Champions League final in Istanbul in August.

The English Premier League and Spain's LaLiga hope to start up again in June but are yet to announce a date.

"The return of the Bundesliga is great news for the football industry and marks the way for the staggered return of football that will not be complete until the return of fans to the stadiums," LaLiga President Javier Tebas said. "We are working so that LaLiga will resume soon. Yesterday and today we started the path with medical tests. This is good news for European football and for the return to the new normal after this crisis."

The new normal meant players wearing face masks and gloves at Barcelona's disinfected training facility to undergo medical checks, including COVID-19 tests. They will only be allowed back for individual training sessions once the tests come back negative. Then daily tests will be required.

When the league was paused in March, Barcelona held a two-point lead over Real Madrid with 11 games remaining.

Unlike their male counterparts, female players won't be returning to action soon. Barcelona is expected to be declared champion of the women's league on Thursday after the federation proposed ending the season. No teams will be relegated but the top two from the second division will be promoted.

Neither the men's nor women's topflight in England have been canceled yet.

In Italy, Inter Milan postponed the return of players for individual training because not all have been tested for the coronavirus.

Torino announced that an unnamed player tested positive for COVID-19 after the first run of medical tests were carried out on the Serie A team as it returns to training.

But Juventus forward Paulo Dybala has now received two negative test results after reports he still had the disease after several weeks of tests.



JOE CAVANETTA, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL/AP

Inter Miami goalie Luis Robles practices at the team's training facility Wednesday in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

# Four MLS teams allow workouts; more to join

By TIM BOOTH  
AND ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

Four Major League Soccer teams took the first small step toward returning to play Wednesday by allowing players to use team training fields for individual workouts.

Sporting Kansas City, Atlanta United, Orlando City and Inter Miami let players in for vigorous, controlled voluntary workouts on the first day they were permitted by the league.

Nashville, Real Salt Lake, LAFC, Houston and Portland are among the league's 26 teams that planned to start Thursday, with more lined up next week.

In Orlando, the entire roster showed up.

"Of course it's the first step but we have a long way," said Orlando City midfielder Mauricio Perea. "This is the beginning. We are training alone, and then we will have small groups and then we hope soon we can train with the full group."

MLS suspended the season because of the coronavirus pandemic on March 12, closing all team facilities but asking players to remain near their teams. A league-wide moratorium on group and team training remains in effect through May 15 and it's unclear when the season might resume.

When MLS announced last Friday that individual workouts would be allowed, it required teams to get league approval before starting. Many haven't

## DID YOU KNOW?

Teams that want to start workouts must first get MLS approval. Many haven't yet completed the process, while numerous others are in areas still under stay-at-home orders to limit the spread of COVID-19. Four clubs began workouts Wednesday and four more were scheduled to begin Thursday. Others will begin next week.

SOURCE: Associated Press

completed the process yet. Numerous other teams are in areas still under stay-at-home orders to limit the spread of COVID-19, or are awaiting approval from local health authorities before moving forward with their plans.

Sporting Kansas City advocated for giving players individual access to private team facilities for safety reasons. They could get recognized and approached in public parks and other fields are not well-groomed and could cause injury.

"This is individual workouts with private field access only. If you think of it that way, you're thinking of it based on putting the player safety first," Sporting coach Peter Vermes said. "And again, this is a much safer environment than the alternatives they have."

FC Dallas defender Ryan Hollingshead welcomed the opportunity to play on maintained fields. Dallas is expected to start workouts Monday.

"We have been playing on ter-

rible park fields and trying to find a place that has at least some sort of surface to play soccer on. But these fields are rock hard, they're so bouncy. It's almost impossible to do any of the drills that we're trying to do on these fields," he said.

Some teams simply can't open up for workouts just yet. In Seattle, which was hit hard by the coronavirus, stay-at-home orders are in place until May 31. Many other states and cities also have similar orders in place.

MLS protocols for the individual workouts include restricting facilities to essential staff, disinfection of all equipment after each session, screening measures including temperature checks, and staggered player and staff arrivals and departures, as well as designated parking that ensures proper distancing.

Players are still not allowed access to indoor facilities, such as locker rooms.

They must also wear personal protective equipment such as masks upon arriving and departing from the fields, while staff will be required to use such equipment at all times. Staff must maintain a distance of 10 feet from players at all times.

"We got a lot of information last night about the process, and it's a tedious one but it's an important one because we want to make sure that we're exercising every safety precaution," Inter Miami goalkeeper Luis Robles said.

AP sports writers Tim Reynolds in Miami, Paul Newberry in Atlanta, Joe Kay in Cincinnati and Dave Skretta in Kansas City contributed to this report.



Rui Vieira/AP

It's still not certain if the English Premier League trophy will be presented this season. The Premier League hopes to start up again in June but has yet to make an official announcement.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NFL

# Running the option: College football not in sync yet on start

By RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

There are 130 major college football teams, spread across 41 states and competing in 10 conferences, save for a handful of independents.

The goal is to have all those teams start the upcoming season at the same time—whether that's around Labor Day as scheduled or later—and play the same number of games.

With each passing day it is becoming apparent the COVID-19 pandemic is going to make that goal difficult to achieve. Despite the best intentions of conference leaders, the possibility exists of college football being played in SEC country before it begins in Pac-12 territory—or something else entirely.

"I can't say enough about the extent to which they're working closely together, spending time together, communicating with each other," Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick said. "And I think that's the most important thing. It gives us a chance to come up with an overarch-

ing policy and an ability to start together.

"Having said that, I think we all recognize that there is a significant chance that that may not be possible," he said.

The coronavirus is affecting different regions of the country in different ways, prompting a wide range of responses to fight the spread and revive economies.

Some states such as Georgia and Florida have already begun to re-open businesses. Others such as California and Washington are going more slowly. Where that leaves them all four months from now is hard to predict and the uncertainty is reflected across college sports.

The NCAA football oversight committee has agreed on a six-week plan for teams to prepare to start the season. Teams would ideally be on campus by mid-July for the season to start on time.

Beyond that, the NCAA has little influence on the logistics of college football. The conferences are mostly in charge, with commissioners leading the way.

The commissioners of the At-



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

**Ohio State fans celebrate during the Fiesta Bowl last December against Clemson in Glendale, Ariz. The goal is for all of major college football to start the season at the same time and play an equal number of games. It is becoming more apparent the pandemic is going to make that goal difficult.**

lantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern Conference say they have been in almost constant contact since the NCAA men's basketball tournament was canceled on March 12.

"Based on the very positive and close collaboration among the leaders in college football and discussions with schools, other leagues and the medical community, at this point in time we are planning to start the football

season on time and together on a national basis," Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said.

But can that plan hold?

An interview SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey did last week with a Jacksonville, Fla., radio station became a headline when he said: "There is room for different conferences to make different decisions." In an interview with the Big Ten network, Commissioner Kevin Warren suggested

something similar.

Penn State coach James Franklin wondered if even within conferences schools would be uniform in their return to play.

"Say you have six schools in your conference or eight schools in your conference that all are able to open, and there are one or two that can't. Are you going to penalize all these schools not being able to reopen?" Franklin asked reporters.

## NFL adopts plans for opening team practice facilities

By BARRY WILNER

Associated Press

The NFL has set protocols for reopening team facilities and has told the 32 teams to have them in place by May 15.

In a memo sent by Commissioner Roger Goodell, several phases of the protocols were laid out. The first phase to deal with the coronavirus pandemic would involve a limited number of nonplayer personnel, initially 50% of the nonplayer employees (up to a total of 75) on any single day, being approved to be at the facility. But state or local regulations could require a lower number.

The individual clubs would decide which employees could return to the facility and when once facilities reopen. No players would be permitted in the facility except to continue therapy and rehabilitation for injuries that was underway when facilities were ordered closed in late March by Goodell.

"While these protocols have been carefully developed and reflect best practices," Goodell wrote, "they can also be adapted and supplemented to ensure compliance with any state and local public health requirements."

Goodell noted that the league is actively working on the next phase of reopening, which will involve both more staffers, and players. He said the players' union is also being consulted on these steps.

Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL's medical director, will speak with each team physician and the infection control officer to discuss implementation and medical aspects of the protocols.

The step-by-step requirements are:

- Local and state government officials must con-



BYRNIA ANDERSON/AP

**NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has set protocols for reopening team facilities and has told the 32 teams to have them in place by May 15.**

sented to reopening.

- The team must implement all operational guidelines set by the league to minimize the risk of virus transmission among employees.

- Each club must acquire adequate amounts of needed supplies as prescribed by the league.

- An Infection Response Team with a written plan for newly diagnosed coronavirus cases, with an Infection Control Officer.

- Each employee who returns to work at the club facility must receive COVID-19 safety and hygiene training prior to using the facility, and agree to report health information to the IGO.

- The response team must consist of a local physician with expertise in common infectious disease principles; the team physician can fill that role. Also on the response team will be the infection control officer, the team's head athletic trainer; the team physician, if he or she is not serving as the local physician; the human resources director; the team's chief of security; its mental health clinician or someone with equivalent clinical expertise; and a member of the club's operations staff such as the facility manager.

## Auditor: Favre is repaying \$1.1M for no-show speeches

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Former NFL quarterback Brett Favre is repaying \$1.1 million in welfare money that he received for multiple speeches where he did not show up, the Mississippi state auditor said Wednesday.

Auditor Shad White said his office received \$500,000 from Favre on Wednesday, plus a commitment that Favre will repay the other \$600,000 in installments over the next few months.

Favre's effort to repay the money came two days after White released an audit of spending by the Mississippi Department of Human Services that showed Favre had been paid by Mississippi Community Education Center, a nonprofit group whose former leader has been indicted in a welfare embezzlement scheme.

Mississippi is one of the poorest states in the U.S., and the community education center had contracts with Human Services to spend money through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, also known as TANF.

"I want to applaud Mr. Favre for his good faith effort to make this right and make the taxpayers and TANF families whole," White

said in a statement Wednesday. "To date, we have seen no records indicating Mr. Favre knew that TANF was the program that served as the source of the money he was paid."

The audit released Monday said the center paid Favre Enterprises \$500,000 in December 2017 and \$600,000 in June 2018, and he was supposed to make speeches for at least three events. The auditor's report said that "upon a cursory review of those dates, auditors were able to determine that the individual contracted did not speak nor was he present for those events."

Favre, who lives in Mississippi, faces no criminal charges. The audit report lists the payments to him as "questioned" costs.

In a Facebook post Wednesday night, Favre said he didn't know the payments he received came from welfare funds and noted his charity had provided millions of dollars to poor kids in his home state of Mississippi and Wisconsin.

"My agent is often approached by different products or brands for me to appear in one way or another. This request was no different, and I did numerous ads for Family First," Favre wrote.

Associated Press sports writer Annie Stapleton contributed to this report.

## MMA

## Regional fighters face uphill battle during pandemic

Limited options for those yet to break through with UFC

By DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kyle Daukaus could use a job. The Philadelphia native seeks manual labor work to earn money while on a break from the kind of profession not often noted on LinkedIn: the undefeated middleweight champion of regional MMA promotion Cage Fury Fighting Championships.

"As far as fighting," Daukaus said, "I can't do anything."

Outside of UFC, the mixed martial arts world has largely shut down, leaving thousands of prospects like the 27-year-old Daukaus out of work and with little idea when the cage door will open again.

There's nowhere to fight — the regional scene has vanished during the coronavirus pandemic — and their gyms are shuttered. So Daukaus does what he can, taking to a nearby park for sprints on empty parking lots and pounding pads with his brother in the garage of his Philly home. Far from the millions top MMA fighters earn with each massive pay-per-view fight, Daukaus is paid by CFFC almost on commission — the more tickets he sells to friends and family for one of his fight nights, the more cash he can earn.

And in this climate, there's nothing to sell.

Cage Fury has postponed its scheduled cards, as have most of the larger MMA promotions such as Bellator, One Championship and the Professional Fighters League.

The promotional drought has left fighters scrambling for a nibble of whatever open preliminary bouts might be available on a UFC card.

Hector Castro, a fight manager with Empire Sports Management, said UFC has tightened the ship on which outsiders are offered deals. But his phone is buzzing from the pleas of his stable of roughly 20 fighters who crave a fight with any promotion.

"Everybody wants to get in there," he said. "But the major issue is, they want to be smart about it. They understand this is



MATT SLOCUM/AP

**Kyle Daukaus, an undefeated 27-year-old middleweight fighter in the regional MMA promotion Cage Fury Fighting Championships, is still chasing his dream of getting the call to fight for UFC despite the coronavirus pandemic.**

how they make a living. But a lot of them also see the opportunity."

Daukaus is among the fighters looking to seize the moment. He fought on the UFC "Contender Series" and nearly scored a contract with the company. There's a chance he could earn another crack at UFC if he lands a spot on the next "Contender" if it goes through with a summer taping.

"He texts me almost every other day, 'Hey, tell (UFC) I'm ready,'" Castro said. "Tell the Bellator guys, 'Hey, I want this guy.' I'm like, listen, bro. It's quiet right now. There's nothing going on. Let's hope we can get back to work and these guys can make a living. The longer we go, the longer the line goes. You're only allowed 12 fights, 15 fights a card. You're at the bottom of the totem pole."

With no money stream, fighters are more willing than ever to gamble with their health and fight during the outbreak.

"Will they risk getting sick? I'm sure 90% would," Castro said. "The mentally

strong are going to survive this."

Daukaus normally trained twice daily with jiu-jitsu sessions in the morning and practicing other mixed martial arts skills at night. He taught kickboxing classes at a Philly gym and worked out with a strength and conditioning coach in New Jersey. He now relies on weights in his basement and shadow boxing to stay fit, mixing in the occasional sparring sessions with his older brother, a fellow MMA fighter and Philadelphia police officer.

Daukaus was trained by former Bellator fighter Will Martinez, who opened his Brazilian jiu-jitsu school nearly 10 years ago in Philadelphia. He shut the doors in mid-March and his empty gym has become an other casualty of the pandemic.

"Ten years may be going down the drain," Martinez said. "How many schools and places like us are in the same predicament? I can't really dwell on it. I've got to sit back and wait."

Martinez suspended the schedules of nearly 200 members and wonders how

**'As far as fighting, I can't do anything.'**

**Kyle Daukaus**  
middleweight champion,  
Cage Fury Fighting Championships

his 3,700-square-foot gym could survive even if it opens under a new era of social distancing.

"Mentally, physically, financially, emotionally, it's terrible," he said. "Jiu-jitsu is in a real terrible predicament because we're not like other guys where people can keep social distancing and keep six feet apart because they have a 30,000-square-foot facility. We can't do that. So what do we do? There's no timeframe to our return."

Daukaus is 9-0 since he turned pro in 2017 and last fought in early February at a casino. He's generally paid when he weighs in and earns more if he wins his fight, dollar figures nudged higher if ticket sale incentives are met, and a drop in the split bucket compared to the millions raked in by PPV stars Khabib Nurmagomedov or Conor McGregor.

"It's a big deal when I have fights here locally, which is good because I have a lot of people coming so I get that extra money," Daukaus said.

Daukaus is an independent contractor. Unlike pros in the NBA or NHL, two leagues interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic whose players are getting most or all of their regular-season paycheck, Daukaus doesn't receive a salary and lives at home with his mother, a nurse practitioner with Temple University Hospital.

"I hear about how bad it is at her work," Daukaus said. "But for me, it's very tough not having any income. I know that fighting as a profession is a struggle in the beginning, and I'm fine with struggling like that. But I'm not even guaranteed monthly payments from the gym right now. I'm doing as best as I can to spend as minimal an amount as possible."

Daukaus had hoped to fight again this month. Instead, he trains at home for a fight that might not happen this year.

"I don't have a Plan B," Daukaus said. "If the opportunity comes and I get a call, I'm going to take it."

## UFC 249 participants ready to inspire hope knowing risk

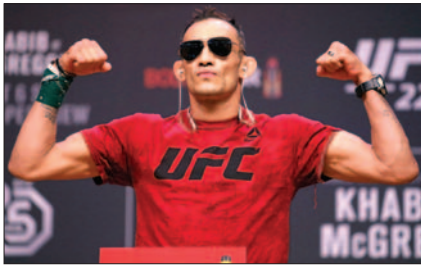
By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

When the UFC leads North America's major sports back into action Saturday night in Florida, Tony Ferguson and Justin Gaethje know they can't do anything tentatively.

"We've got to go out there and keep sports alive," Ferguson said Tuesday after he flew into Jacksonville and was quickly tested for COVID-19.

The 24 fighters at UFC 249 all realize they added another risk to their already hazardous professions when they agreed to compete amid the growing coronavirus pandemic. While the UFC has strict safety protocols in place, no one can be certain of the dangers involved when the mixed martial arts promotion returned from an eight-week break with three shows in eight days in Jacksonville.

Ferguson and Gaethje both be-



JOHN LOCHNER/AP

**Lightweight contenders Tony Ferguson, pictured, and Justin Gaethje will headline UFC 249 on Saturday in Jacksonville, Fla.**

lieve their risks are outweighed by the sporting rewards they will reap and the example they will provide when they fight for the interim UFC lightweight title in a

fan-free arena.

"We're going to bring a sense of normalcy to people," Gaethje said in a phone interview. "I'm proud to be a part of it. It's the

opportunity to inspire. People need to be inspired right now. They need to not let themselves become depressed (or) emotional because they can't control what's going on right now. We've got to ride it through. They need to be inspired, and we can do that."

"I've honestly had no reservations," Ferguson added. "Fighting is very dangerous, so I think we'll be just fine."

The UFC never wanted to stop competition while the pandemic grew, and president Dana White was never short of fighters willing to compete while he scrambled desperately to keep holding fight cards amid the unprecedented public health crisis. Now that White has found a state and an athletic commission willing to host him, UFC 249 will be followed by additional shows on May 13, May 16 and probably May 23 from Jacksonville.

"There's not very often you're going to get to fight for a world

title, much less during a pandemic when there's zero sports going on and you're going to be the only one on TV," Gaethje said. "You have to face your fears. You've got to go out there and take the chances when they're presented."

Even seasoned veterans like champion Dominick Cruz have jumped at the opportunity despite being well aware of the health risks involved. Like Gaethje, Cruz sees UFC 249 as an opportunity to overcome fear.

"Realistically, anybody can contract this virus," said Cruz, who will return from a three-year cage absence to fight bantamweight champion Henry Cejudo on Saturday. "I think that's partially the point, is understanding that anybody out there can get this, but you can't just freeze up when you see something that's scary. You've got to take the precautions, be as safe as possible, but live your life. That's what I'm doing."

# SPORTS



## Valuable information

Players who endured COVID-19  
can provide scientific data » **Page 49**

**MMA**

# Fighting for a future

With gyms — and cages — shuttered, limited options available  
to UFC hopefuls looking to train, and earn, during pandemic

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### Inside:

■ Fighters see UFC 249 as chance to spread hope, inspiration, **Page 55**

Fighter Kyle Daukaus, right, trains with his brother Chris Daukaus in their garage last week in Philadelphia. Kyle, a rising star in the regional MMA promotion Cage Fury Fighting Championships, is still chasing his dream of getting the call to fight for UFC despite the coronavirus pandemic.

MATT SLOCUM / AP

## TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

